



Informational Memo: 2016 School Improvement Plans

TO: School Board
Superintendent Kocanda

FROM: Barry Rodgers
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November 15, 2016

Background:

Our school improvement efforts are driven through the work of our institute days, committee work, Collaborative Learning Teams, and grade level meetings. These efforts have facilitated productive conversations with teachers and staff centered on how to best help students grow and achieve in all realms of their development. Principals and school teams collaborated to identify the focus of their school improvement plan, with a focus on our new Shared Vision. In addition, they developed an outline of their action plans, complete with accountability measures.

School Improvement Plans reflect the current changes brought forth by the federal ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act). ESSA has provided a welcome revision to the previous No Child Left Behind (NCLB) policy. The new policy offers a reprieve to the overemphasis on high stakes standardized testing. The policy recognizes the importance of social emotional learning and 21st-century skills to a point where states are able and encouraged to have 50% of the accountability measures step away from standardized test score data and toward these other important success factors.

The three elementary schools have SIPs dedicated to SEL, service learning, and leadership, to help actualize our shared vision. Skokie and Washburne have SIPs

designed to leverage new 21st century learning opportunities and student support models. These areas of focus, coupled with our academic focused District Improvement Plan, provide a more meaningful school improvement process and embodies the overall shift in federal policy.

In developing School Improvement Plans, we emphasized the building a deep understanding of our Shared Vision. Understanding the different elements of the Shared Vision serves as the cornerstone of our efforts. We believe that when faculty and staff have a strong professional and personal connection to our Shared Vision, we will be positioned to see the greatest amount of progress.

We worked closely with our Principals to develop a new School Improvement Instrument that provides coherence, clarity and meaning for all levels of our learning community. The new streamlined tool is designed as a “living document” to promote progress towards our goals and to facilitate innovation.

The School Improvement Instrument includes the following elements:

- ❑ **School Improvement Goal**
- ❑ **Vision:** Articulates how the School Improvement Plan supports our Shared Vision
- ❑ **Key Indicators of Progress:** Includes measures and evidence identified to provide a valuable feedback mechanism towards goals.
- ❑ **Action Plan:** Defines efforts, responsibilities and timeframe
- ❑ **Evidence:** Utilizes both quantitative and qualitative data
- ❑ **Final Reflection:** Summarizes our efforts and leads to continuous improvement

School Improvement Plans for each school are listed below:

[Crow Island School](#)

[Greeley School](#)

[Hubbard Woods School](#)

[The Skokie School](#)

[Washburne School](#)

Alignment with the District 36 Shared Vision

School Improvement Plans are developed emphasizing different components of our Shared Vision based on the work of each school community. Schools will focus on the following elements connected to the Shared Vision:

- ☐ Every Student to Flourish
- ☐ Innovation
- ☐ Experiential learning
- ☐ Support and challenge
- ☐ Continuous growth and achievement
- ☐ Making a difference in the world

Next Steps

Schools will implement School Improvement Plans with the support of our Administrative Team. A mid-year SIP update will be shared in February. An end of year review of school improvement plan outcomes and reflections will be shared in June.