



A Community of Learners

Informational Memo: Update on School Improvement Plan Process

TO: School Board
Superintendent Kocanda

FROM: Barry Rodgers, Director of Innovation, Teaching and Learning

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Background

Over the past five years, the School Improvement Plans have focused on common reading, math, or writing goals. These were important plans, especially as the District was working to build a consistent curriculum across all schools and aligned K-8. This year, the revised reading curriculum is the last to be implemented District-wide. Therefore, goals related to student growth and achievement for reading, math, and writing will be written at a District level and monitored by schools. Common curriculum, materials, and assessments are now in place. The District Improvement Plan will focus on math, reading, and writing goals.

As part of this process, we examine District level and building level data with our Administrative Team to inform our improvement efforts. We will work closely with each school to ensure progress towards the Goals, including establishing reading and math targets. Our overall efforts continue as our teachers work closely with Principals to set individual goals with a direct impact on classroom instruction.

As we focus our annual efforts of continuous improvement, each school will be developing a school improvement plan to be presented at a future meeting. Each plan will center on one to two major goals customized to meet the needs of each individual school as it relates to actualizing our District's Shared Vision.

School Improvement Plan - Overview

Starting with our August administrative retreat, we have emphasized the building of a deep understanding of our Shared Vision. Understanding the “Why” and the importance of how the different elements of the Shared Vision will move us forward is the cornerstone of our school improvement efforts. We believe that when faculty and staff have a strong professional and personal connection to our goals, we will be best positioned to see the greatest amount of progress.

Our opening Institute Day featured presentations and activities for our faculty to connect with our Shared Vision. It also focused on the work that we do to help our students grow and achieve in all realms of their development. Principals have continued to build upon these efforts with meaningful conversations with their teachers and staff. In the next month, Principals and School Teams will collaborate to identify the focus of their school improvement plan. In addition, they will develop an outline of their action plans, complete with accountability measures.

We have 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

District Improvement Plan - Overview

Winnetka Public schools have been active in building out its assessment portfolio in order to strengthen our improvement processes. Winnetka has been responsive in adapting its assessment portfolio to meet the needs of a changing landscape of new standards, new state assessments and to ensure we are measuring what we value. A list of data that will be utilized can be found in our [assessment portfolio](#). As best practice, we use multiple measures to provide an accurate composite picture of our improvement efforts and our student’s progress.

As we embark on incorporating data into the District improvement process, it is worth

providing an update on the following major assessments:

PARCC

PARCC is still relatively new and still maturing as a valid and reliable measure. PARCC is valuable in that it is designed to specifically measure the new Common Core State Standards. Year one roll-out was problematic, yielding low participation rates. The year two 2015-16 data will demonstrate higher participation rates for most grades and should lead to a more reliable data. Information from PARCC will be shared in October in coordination with the release of Illinois School Report Card.

Silicon Valley Math Initiative (SVMI)

The SVMI features high quality, challenging mathematical tasks. They require students to apply their mathematical knowledge to non-routine problems to assess certain content areas, math practices, and problem solving skills. Students in grades 2,3,6, and 7 will complete the first pre-test component of the SVMI by September 21, followed by the post-test portion completed in a testing window from May 8-26.

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

Our first administration of MAP has begun successfully for students in Grades 3-8. Fall MAP testing will be completed by September 16. Initial MAP scores providing baseline achievement data will be shared at teacher conferences this fall. Our second round of MAP testing will occur between February 27-March 10. MAP is computer adaptive test that indicates student achievement and student growth data over time for reading and math.

Alignment with the District 36 Shared Vision

The school improvement process has been updated and designed to connect school level goals with our Shared Vision.

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

School Improvement Teams led by Principals will collaborate to develop School Improvement Plans. The Administrative Team will share and review available data and

identify area of growth with School Improvement Teams. Furthermore, the Administrative Team will assist schools in building connections of School and District Improvement efforts with our Shared Vision. School Improvement Plans from each school community will be shared with the School Board at the November 15, 2016 meeting. In addition, results of the 2016 Spring PARCC assessment, Fall 2016 MAP administration, and New Trier Freshman data will be shared at the October 18, 2016, meeting. A mid-year SIP update will be shared in February. An end of year review of school improvement plans will be shared in June.