



# HARVEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 152

## Department of Teaching and Learning

"It's All About the Children!"

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### March 2015

Harvey School District 152 held Saturday PARCC preparation courses for the 2014-2015 school year. The classes were for students in all testing grades, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and held for 6 weeks. 25 teachers participated in the program. Each site held sessions in order to service their own students. The total student enrollment was 307 students.

The main goal of Saturday School was to prepare students for the PARCC assessment. The lessons were designed in order to mimic the assessment, in order to give students beneficial practice. Teachers received training in order to deliver lessons that included multiple texts, standard-aligned questions and a writing task. Midway through the program, there was a follow up professional development session, in order to ensure that teachers fully understood all aspects of the lesson and instructional delivery.

While only targeted students were serviced, the overall goal for teachers was to train for continued implementation in the classroom, thus, ensuring that the majority of our student population received the vital preparation needed.

As this was a different way of engaging students and staff, teachers were asked to complete weekly reflections, in order to reflect on lesson effectiveness and student engagement. The responses were overwhelmingly positive! Teachers enjoyed the complexity, the options and the layout. They commented on the engagement of their students and made thoughtful responses of how to improve. Many commented on the benefits of the lesson and the intent to continue teaching in this manner. Some even expressed interest in summer school if this model was used. The program was a success!

Our goal, as always, is to promote and provide meaningful educational experiences for all students and staff.