



# Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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**TO:** Board of Education

**FROM:** Dr. Carol Kelley, Superintendent of Schools

**RE:** Oak Park Elementary School District 97/Hanover Research Partnership

**DATE:** April 7, 2020

In light of commitments made in the District 97 Equity Policy, and also in light of the Board's decision to prioritize data and assessment during its strategic planning retreat, the Board of Education has requested that the Superintendent present options for staffing and infrastructure investments that would give the District the ongoing capability to:

- Design and implement assessment frameworks that are appropriately data-driven and establish indicators of success for initiatives that are grounded in research and best practices, measure the degree to which initiatives are achieving expected/desired outcomes, and inform decisions to modify or initiatives as necessary.
- Develop a public facing assessment framework, consistent with the Equity Policy, that describes key indicators of progress, articulates why they were chosen, and presents them in a manner that enables stakeholders to understand their significance and the significance of the District's performance with respect to these indicators over time.

As requested, we have reviewed several proposals to assist the district in fulfilling the goals described above; and we feel the best alternative would be a partnership with Hanover Research.

As you will find in this [Membership Overview deck](#), the solutions offered by Hanover aligns with the goals the BOE identified. To highlight how they can assist District 97 in identifying best practices and utilizing data to make informed decisions and build frameworks to determine the effectiveness of Oak Park's current initiatives, please see a few additional items:

- [Sample Program Evaluation Framework](#)
- [Paulding County School District Leverages Hanover Survey to Improve Special Education Program](#) – Hanover designed, implemented, and analyzed a survey to over 400+ Paulding staff including teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals to understand the strengths and areas for improvement of the special education program.
- [Core Research Capabilities](#) – a one-pager highlighting the mixed-method research capabilities District 97 will have access to through Hanover's team of 200+ analysts.
- [Data Analysis Overview](#) – some more information on Hanover's data analysis capabilities, which will be relevant when envisioning how they will use our data to assess initiative effectiveness and help inform our equity decisions.
- [Hanover Partnership Return on Investment](#) – this document highlights several examples of the ROI seen directly stemming from a Hanover partnership, while also highlighting their mixed-method expertise.
- [ACPS 2025 Strategic Planning Committee Data Workbook](#)

Hanover has reviewed the district's data sharing agreement and has agreed to sign if their proposal is approved by the Board of Education on April 21. Other information you may want to know about Hanover is outlined below:

- **What would the district receive for \$40,000? What would this look like? What capacity does it require of the district?**

Hanover Research supports over 300 K-12 clients and 500 Higher Education Institutions nationwide by providing research and insights into areas as diverse as curriculum and instruction, operations/facilities, enrollment management, finance, human resources, student services, and federal programs. Hanover staffs over 200 full-time analysts, including statisticians, survey design experts, primary research/qualitative data analysts, and content experts in specific topics.

For a fixed annual fee of \$40,000, Hanover Research will support Oak Park by providing customized research studies sequentially and drawing from Hanover's core capabilities, which include primary research, secondary research, and data analysis. The Core Research Capabilities document linked above will provide more context on what type of work is included within each capability.

In addition, Oak Park will also have access to:

- Hanover Digital Realtime Dashboard Access
- Hanover Digital Online Research Library
- Hanover Digital Peer Generator
- Dedicated Research Advisor
- Interactive Toolkits

While Hanover can produce customized studies on evidence-based practices or peer strategies, much information will be immediately available to Oak Park in Hanover's Online Education Research Library upon partnering with Hanover. 50 Oak Park staff will have unlimited access to the archive of over 1,000 research studies on a variety of topics such as organizational structure, social emotional learning, school start times, grade configurations, at-risk student support, operational efficiency, teacher recruitment and retention, program evaluation, college and career readiness, early childhood education, and community engagement, among others.

In terms of capacity required of the district, we typically recommend an hour of your time on each side of a project. Once a membership begins, we will schedule a welcome call to introduce you to your 2 points of contact: 1 Relationship Director and 1 Content Director. Typically, a member of the Administrative team is chosen as the main point of contact for the partnership term. After the welcome call, you will likely have a 1-hour call before each project to scope the work, along with a 1-hour call after each project to debrief, receive a deliverable, and discuss key takeaways/next steps.

- **Would a public facing dashboard be something Hanover would help us create as a part of \$40K membership?**

In short, yes. As part of the membership, we will conduct an uncapped number of research projects on Oak Park's behalf (completed sequentially), and a public facing dashboard will be considered one of these projects. A few options for the delivery method have been discussed on previous calls, which can be finalized during one of the project scoping calls as mentioned above.

Finally, an FAQ can be found [here](#).

I am happy to invite representatives from Hanover to speak with the BOE directly, if you prefer. Our goal is to have the BOE approve the proposal by April 21. Our inaugural membership fee would be \$40,000, which is a reduced rate for the district. If approved by the BOE on April 21, their work could begin this spring and their findings can inform our 2020-2021 school year planning.

A sample contract of our agreement is included with this BOE packet.

If you have any questions on anything I shared in this memo, please email or call me prior to our next meeting.