



Subject: Curriculum Update
Date: December 17, 2024

School Improvement Plan Overview: Beginning with Data Day in May/June of the previous school year, each building develops a School Improvement Plan that is both connected to the district's improvement goals and tailored to the building's specific needs.

Each building develops an English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) goal. Buildings use several SMART indicators and create action plans to achieve the district's goals. These overarching goals are as follows:

- ELA: Ensure all District 45 students, regardless of student population group, have the ability to read, write, use, create, and communicate information requiring both cognitive and technical skills appropriate to their grade level.
- Math: Ensure all District 45 students, regardless of student population group, have mathematical understanding and solve complex, mathematical equations appropriate to the student's mathematical maturity.
- SEL: District 45 is a place where all students, families, staff, and community members, regardless of population group, are accepted, supported, feel a sense of belonging and pride, and are successful.

While buildings uniformly include robust data practices in their action plans, various additional action items speak to each building's unique needs. Some buildings engage in book studies, one is focusing intensely on "Stop & Think" activities, one has created a building-based Learning Lab, and another has identified the use of common formative assessments. Several buildings have identified aspects of ARC, such as toolkit lessons, evidence collection, assigning growth points, and using the Morning Message more effectively to improve practice.

In addition to its school improvement plan, Schafer School is partnering with the Catalyst for Educational Change (CEC) for targeted assistance. This work focuses on understanding the high-impact teaching strategy of explicit teaching.

Using a combination of time during early dismissal days, building-owned time on Wednesdays, and Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings, School Leadership Teams (SLT) plan professional development and activities that move the work of the school improvement plan forward and complete the action items outlined in the action plan. Throughout the school year, the SLT has a critical role in monitoring the completion of the action plans as developed while being responsive to the data and pivoting as needed.

November 26, 2024 SIP Day: Following Family-School Conferences on November 25, certified staff engaged in professional development focused on Natural and Logical Consequences. The learning outcomes for the day were to:

- Understand the types of consequences and how they shape behavior
- Understand the four functions of behavior
- Understand the relationship between consequences and the functions of behavior
- Distinguish between natural and logical consequences
- Apply knowledge to problem-solve around common misbehaviors

The day included mini-lessons, discussion, sorts, interactive learning structures, and friendly competition to answer the day's guiding question: How do we leverage natural and logical consequences in a way that aligns with our mission, vision, and goals?

AWARE Parent Information Night: On December 12th, Teen Parent Connection and the Dupage County Health Department informed 8th-grade families about the AWARE (Adolescents With Awareness, Resources, and Education) program and allowed attendees to ask questions. As part of District 45's Personal, Social, and Health Education Program, 8th-grade students participate in a one-week unit of study on responsible relationships, sexual health/education, and reproductive systems. The purpose of the unit is to provide knowledge and understanding of safe and healthy relationships based on love and respect.

Professional Development Events: Providing professional development opportunities is critical to the success of initial and ongoing curriculum implementation efforts. The following is a list of district-provided professional development opportunities this past month:

- Defined Learning for 6th-grade math teachers at Jackson
- Studies Weekly Professional Development
- Erin's Law Training for K-8 staff
- ARC Learning Lab for special education teachers
- SEL Learning Lab at Jefferson
- ARC Learning Lab for Instructional Coaches
- ARC Leadership Learning Series