



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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TO: Dr. Carol Kelley, Superintendent

FROM: Jessica Bretl, Prep for Success Coordinator
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RE: Prep for Success Update

DATE: February 18, 2016

Type of Report: Informational

Purpose of the Report: The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of Education with an update on Prep for Success planning.

Prep for Success Overview

Prep for Success (PFS) is a K-8 summer program designed to provide struggling students with targeted intervention in Reading and/or Math. This year's program will take place from July 11 through August 5, 2016, Monday through Friday, 8:00-11:30 am. Longfellow School will house the K-4 program, while Julian Middle School will house the 5-8 program. The program is by invitation only, in an effort to prioritize interventions for our most struggling students.

Prep for Success Student Selection

First Round Invitations

In alignment with our Response to Intervention (RtI) practices at our schools, the first round of Prep for Success invitations have been reserved for students identified as needing RtI Tier 3 support. Tier 3 students have been identified by the school as needing individual or small group intervention by a specialist, using a combination of local cut scores on MAP/DIBELS and additional data points, such as classroom assessments, student work, and teacher anecdotes. Approximately 160 students have been invited in this first round of invitations.

During Parent/Teacher Conferences last week, teachers spoke with the families of students who were identified for first-round Prep for Success invitations, and provided them with invitation letters from the Teaching and Learning department. The invitation letter included general program information and a response form to be returned to the teacher/school. In the response form, parents were asked to indicate factors that might serve as barriers to participation, such as bus transportation and aftercare. In addition, parents opting not to send their child to Prep and Success were asked to provide more details on their reasons.

Moving forward, the Prep for Success Coordinators will utilize data from the interest survey in order to eliminate any participation barriers, and to ensure strong student/parent participation. We anticipate a large number of parent requests for bus transportation and coordination with aftercare options. We have made initial contact with the Park District of Oak Park, Hephzibah, and the Oak Park Education Foundation, to discuss possible coordination with our Prep for Success program.

Future Invitations

In our next round of invitations, we will ask schools to compile lists of their Rtl Tier 2 student recommendations for Prep for Success and extend invitations to these students. Our goal is to impact as many students as possible, while maintaining small class sizes in order to protect a more personalized learning environment. Last summer, we were able to maintain the following student-to-teacher ratios: 7:1 in Kindergarten, 9:1 in grades 1-4, and 11:1 in grades 5-8.

Teacher Recruitment and Selection

To be considered for a teaching position in Prep for Success, District 97 teachers must undergo an application and interview process (when warranted). The teacher application process opened on February 3 and will continue through February 22. Teachers will be notified of the status of their applications by March 4.

Following the February 22 application deadline, the Prep for Success Coordinators, along with the Teaching and Learning department, will select teachers from the pool of applicants. The coordinators will select teachers who are highly qualified, have experience with differentiation and small group instruction, and are most closely aligned with the goals and philosophies of the program. In order to attract teacher applicants meeting these criteria, school principals have been asked to promote and help recruit the most effective teachers for Prep for Success.

All teachers who are selected and offered positions for Prep for Success will go through a full day of training to review expectations, complete training on instructional materials, and have opportunities to collaborate and plan instruction.

Curricular Planning

Prep for Success is designed to provide struggling students with targeted intervention in Reading and/or Math. Therefore, our goal is to fill any gaps in student learning and to provide tiered intervention and support to the students who need it most. As such, Prep for Success Coordinators will work with the teachers to create rigorous, differentiated, and CCSS-aligned curriculum.

Prior to the full-day teacher training session, the Prep for Success Coordinators will review student data to group students according to their needs. In addition, they will review past summer curricula and evaluate possible new resources for the program. Similarly, they will consider successful programs and models already used in our district's schools for implementation in our Prep for Success program.

Immediate Next Steps

We are currently in the midst of our planning process, and immediate next steps include:

- Collect parent survey data to determine transportation and aftercare needs (requests to the Board for additional funding will be made based on these results)
- Invite additional students to the program
- Select teachers for the program by March 4
- Review summer instructional materials