



River Forest
Public Schools

Administration Building

7776 Lake Street

River Forest, IL 60305

708-771-8282

MEMO

Date: 9/5/17

To: Dr. Ed Condon, *Superintendent*

From: Dr. Alison Hawley, *Director of Curriculum & Instruction*

RE: 2017-18 Curriculum Office Initiatives

Background

The Office of Curriculum and Instruction supports the implementation of the D90 Strategic Plan, facilitates the curriculum review process, the adoption of core instructional materials, and the planning of professional development. The Curriculum Office also partners with community organizations and articulates with Oak Park D97 and Oak Park River Forest D200.

This year, the Curriculum Office will build upon the successes and accomplishments of 2016-17. Last spring, the District 90 Board of Education approved the adoption of *Investigations in Number, Data, and Space 3*. Supporting the implementation of the newly adopted instructional materials will be a major area of focus for Grades K-5. Additionally, the Curriculum Office will support the expansion of Units of Study for Writing in Grade 5, the extended Math Pilot for Grades 6 & 7, the integration of performance tasks in Science Grades 5-8, and the initiation of a Social Studies review for Grades 5-8.

2017-18 Curriculum Office Overarching Priorities

1. Facilitate the continued alignment of curriculum and materials to the Illinois Learning Standards for math, English language arts, and the Next Generation Science Standards.
2. Support professional collaboration opportunities related to continued implementation of curriculum and materials.
3. Utilize the lens of equity in decision-making related to curriculum, instruction, and assessment.
4. Engage staff in high-quality professional development to support continuous growth and achievement for students.
5. Support District 90 Strategic Plan Action Objective Goals.

Excellence in Education: A Continuing Tradition

District 90 will also continue its relationship with Columbia University Teachers College Reading and Writing Project to support the Units of Study for Writing and the University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC). UIC will continue to help facilitate the Math Leadership Team, K-4 grade level professional development release days, and provide instructional coaching for math teachers Grades 5-8.

Both organizations will provide job-embedded professional development that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- Highlighting the relationship between best practices research, newly adopted materials, and instructional pedagogy
- Conducting demonstration lessons in classrooms
- Studying student engagement and differentiation of instruction
- Differentiating professional learning based on expressed teacher, grade level, or content area need

Committee	Objectives
Math (K-8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support implementation of Investigations in Number, Data, and Space 3 (K-5) • Facilitate extended math pilot for Grades 6 & 7 • Develop K-8 aligned curriculum frameworks
Literacy (K-8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a vision for Balanced Literacy in District 90 • Develop K-8 overarching essential questions • Implement K-4 scope and sequence and pacing guide for 2017-18 • Complete K-8 aligned curriculum frameworks
Science (5-8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate Defined STEM performance tasks into IQWST curriculum • Collaboratively review student performance task data • Identify ongoing professional development needs
Social Studies (5-8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a vision for social studies that incorporates the 3C Framework • Develop vision for D90 social studies teaching and learning • Create overarching essential questions • Review units to incorporate 3C Framework

Next Steps

The calendar for curriculum committees in active review are set and will begin meeting in September. Committee membership is intended to be as representative as possible across all schools and grade levels. Grade levels will also have the opportunity to articulate both vertically and horizontally at three different points across the school year. Committees, grade level, and content area teams will also have the opportunity to share progress on their goals and seek feedback during the year at District Institute Days and through targeted professional learning experiences.