



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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TO: Members, Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Carol Kelley, Superintendent

DATE: July 17, 2018

RE: 2018-2019 District-Level Priorities (Collective Action Plans)

First, let me take this opportunity to thank District 97 Board of Education for its support of our vision plan, which offers a roadmap for creating a positive learning environment for every student.

You'll recall that [Vision97 4ALL](#) – our vision plan spanning 2017 to 2022 - outlined **four aspirational goals** for student learning, and proposed an outline for achieving them. By investing in the capacity and collective expertise of our staff – by drawing on our **four building blocks, professional practices and strategic objectives** [\(found on pages 11-16 of our vision plan\)](#) – we will ensure that every D97 student witnesses, achieves or begins experiencing what it means to be:

- A known, nurtured and celebrated LEARNER.
- An empowered and passionate SCHOLAR.
- A confident and persistent ACHIEVER.
- A creative CRITICAL THINKER AND GLOBAL CITIZEN.

Vision97 4ALL also includes measures that will verify that we're moving closer to our goals. Following our most recent end-of-year review of these measures, extensive conversation at the district level, and ongoing consultation with our building principals, we have identified the following Five Priorities as our collective focus areas for the 2018-2019 school year:

1. **Strengthening Elementary School Literacy Instruction.** We will strengthen K-5 literacy instruction through a balanced literacy approach that addresses student learning styles, incorporating student voice and promoting instruction responsive to student needs.
2. **Strengthening Middle School Instruction.** We will revise International Baccalaureate units for cognitively demanding student-centered experiences in grades 6-8.
3. **Tier 1 PBIS and Culture/Climate Supports.** We will build collective understanding and the capacity of school culture/climate teams to lead and monitor implementation of Tier 1 Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS).
4. **Social-Emotional Supports.** We will refine and expand targeted social-emotional supports that address all aspects of a student's development through caring and respectful relationships.
5. **Co-teaching Expansion (Inclusive Teaching Practices).** We will broaden implementation of inclusive practices that support meaningful access to general education learning environments, curricula and experiences for students with disabilities.

These five collective district priorities are deemed most supportive of the needs of our schools and most relevant at this time for moving our whole organization towards higher levels of effectiveness, efficiency, and readiness in years to come. Additionally, these five priorities were also selected on the basis of what our organization is fiscally able to handle at this time.

In addition to these collective priorities, each district-level team has also identified their own department-specific objectives for the new school year, thereby strengthening a culture of results-focused planning, disciplined implementation and continuous monitoring of progress system-wide. Furthermore, when each school completes its annual school improvement plan in Fall 2018, then every organizational entity within D97 will have clearly-defined priorities for the new school year, consistent with the Board approved vision, goals, and roadmap outlined in our district's five year Vision97 4ALL plan.

Our main aim for the upcoming school year is to put more aligned, systematic processes into place from the school level to central office in order to help each student feel a sense of belonging, read at or above grade level by the end of grade 3, and be ready for advance course taking by the time they move into high school.

A full copy of our [2018-2019 District-Level Priorities \(Collective Action Plans\)](#) is attached for your review.

On behalf of the administrative team and staff, I would like to publicly thank the Board of Education for your continued support in helping District 97 create positive learning environments that are equitable, inclusive and focused on the whole child.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carol L. Kelley
Superintendent