



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Dr. Martha Ryan-Toye and District 96 Board of Education

**From:** Nora Geraghty, Director of Special Education and Student Services

**Date:** March 26, 2024

**RE:** Update on Strategic Plan Goal 2- Learning Environment and Culture

- Riverside District 96 continues to work towards Goal 2 of our strategic plan to cultivate a safe, secure, and inclusive learning environment that is responsive to the needs of each student.
  
- Professional Development:
  - October 10, 2023 District 96 Institute Day- Special Education certified staff and paraprofessional staff received training from LADSE in Crisis Prevention with focus in the areas of verbal de-escalation and restorative practices.
  - December 4, 2023 75-Minute After School Professional Learning–SEL Action Team members designed and led a well-received professional learning session at their buildings focused on Adult SEL competency and skill development.
  - March 19, 2024 District 96 Institute Day– paraprofessionals had opportunities for self-directed online learning related to topics such as supporting building-wide SEL initiatives, supporting diverse learners in general education classrooms, providing behavior support in order to prevent behavior escalation, and supporting students experiencing homelessness. All paraprofessional and teaching staff participated in a training from IRC to enhance practices to support and affirm English Learner students in their classrooms.
  - Upcoming professional learning opportunities include our half day institute day, when all district staff will begin the Equity journey series of professional learning sessions, as well as an additional 75-minute After School Professional Learning session in April that will be focused on Adult SEL skills and their impact on classrooms.
  
- Grades 2-8 were administered the PASS/Renaissance Screener in mid-October and early March. Nora Geraghty met with the social workers, school psychologists, and principals in each building to review building data in the fall and to begin to explore the building-level and grade-level

intervention tools provided by Renaissance. The District Leadership Team will have time to review the data together this spring to assist with 2024-25 building level goal work with their Building Leadership Teams.

- District-wide, results on this PASS/Renaissance Screener continue to be strong, with none of the nine assessed domains falling in the low, low-moderate, or moderate level of satisfaction at the district level or any building level. These results suggest an average to high average level of school satisfaction and student self-perception relative to post-pandemic national norms on this tool.
- One of our Goal 2 KPIs is student attendance, which has declined nationwide and in District 96. Two members of our District Leadership Team are currently participating in a 4-session intensive workshop targeting research-backed strategies for improving practices and processes at the district level to support improved student attendance.