

Pleasantdale School District 107

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In 2010, the Illinois legislature passed Senate Bill 7 (SB7) which required all schools in Illinois to make available a survey that measures the learning conditions within schools. SB7 requires "...an instrument to provide feedback from, at minimum, students in grade 6 through 12 and teachers on the instructional environment within a school."

The 5Essentials Survey of Learning Conditions, which was developed after 20 years of research at the University of Chicago, meets this requirement and is offered to districts for free. Schools are required to administer a learning conditions survey every other year. The 5Essentials Survey of Learning Conditions collects data in five categories:

- Ambitious Instruction: Classes are challenging and engaging
- Effective Leaders: Principals and teachers implement a shared vision for success
- Collaborative Teachers: Teachers collaborate to promote professional growth
- Involved Families: The entire staff builds strong external relationships
- Supportive Environment: The school is safe, demanding, and supportive

Schools are rated using the following scale (from low to high): Least Implementation, Less Implementation, Average Implementation, More Implementation, and Most Implementation.

In our schools, the survey was taken by teachers and students in grades 6 through 8 last spring. At the Elementary School, 81% of teachers took the survey. At the Middle School, 76.7% of teachers and 94.7% of students completed the survey. The results are reported by school site and for the district as a whole.

Table 1: Pleasantdale SD 107 5Essentials Conditions of Learning Conditions Results (2015)

5Essentials Areas	D107 (Average)	PES	PMS
Ambitious Instruction	Average Implementation	Low Response or N/A	Average Implementation
Effective Leaders	Less Implementation	Less Implementation	Average Implementation
Collaborative Teachers	Average Implementation	Less Implementation	More Implementation
Involved Families	More Implementation	More Implementation	More Implementation
Supportive Environment	Average Implementation	Low Response or N/A	Average Implementation
Overall Rating	Moderately Organized	Partially Organized	Organized

These results are just a single measure and should be viewed as only part of a larger system through which to measure the effectiveness of our schools. These data have been analyzed

Mission

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and discussed by the administrative team, and we are looking for systems and structures to address any concerns identified in the data. This year, we've already begun addressing some of the items raised in the report.

Our current initiatives and longstanding systems fall nicely into the 5Essentials categories, as reflected in the following table.

Table 2: Current Initiatives/Systems Linked to the 5Essentials Categories

Initiative	Ambitious Instruction	Effective Leaders	Collaborative Teachers	Involved Families	Supportive Environment
Team Leaders (PMS)		✓	✓		
Lead Teachers (PES)		✓	✓		
RtI Task Force (PES)	✓	✓	✓		
EC Task Force (PES)	✓	✓	✓		
Weekly staff emails from the principal (both schools)		✓			✓
Curriculum Council reboot (District)	✓		✓		
BrightBytes Survey (District)			✓	✓	
Bright Spots weekly email (District)		✓			✓
District Goals (District)	✓	✓	✓		
Bi-monthly meetings with Union leadership (District)		✓	✓		
Second Cup of Coffee (District)				✓	✓

While it is important to review the results of the 5Essentials survey and work to improve our learning conditions, as mentioned previously, we also know that the survey is but a single measure. To get a complete picture of our schools, we need to include academic data along with internal surveys and studies, as well as conversations with parents and students.

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Pleasantdale SD 107 is a great place to grow, learn, and work, and we will continue to work to make it better.

Main Takeaways:

- The 5Essentials Survey of Learning Conditions is mandated to be offered to students (grades 6-8) and teachers every other year. PDS 107 gave the survey last spring.
- Schools are rated in five areas: Ambitious Instruction, Effective Leaders, Collaborative Teachers, Involved Families, and Supportive Environment.
- The district is using this data to improve the learning conditions at our schools through a variety of new initiatives.
- Detailed information on our 5Essentials Survey scores can be found on the Illinois School Report Card at (<http://www.illinoisreportcard.com/>)

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