

Board Report September 2018

Curriculum and Instruction

District Improvement Planning

District level administrators have started the improvement planning process around our new goals and pictures of success. We have identified key strengths and areas of concern through a comprehensive needs assessment. The improvement plan will define how each area of concern will be addressed through a specific strategy so that the associated problem statement can be eliminated or significantly reduced so our goals may be met. Campuses will then tailor each campus improvement plan based on their needs while also supporting the district plan.

NWEA MAP

Students and teachers in grades K-8 have begun academic growth conversations that align with NWEA MAP (Northwest Evaluation Association Measures of Academic Progress) data and growth goals. NWEA MAP is a math, reading and language usage assessment that provides data that reflects what students are ready to learn. Administrators, teachers, students, and parents are provided academic growth information from the MAP testing which occurs three times per year. Campuses across the district have begun MAP testing or will begin testing this week. Additionally, student learning information from NWEA MAP math is used in the newly purchased curricular program Compass Math Pathway and Edgenuity MyPath to create personalized learning pathways in math for K-8 students.

Vertical Writing Alignment

Mrs. Bowman and Mrs. Boyd have been working closely with Nancy Rindone from the Schlechty Center to begin aligning district writing expectations and instruction as well as ensuring a deep understanding of the writing TEKS across all grade levels. Teacher leaders will meet for the first time the morning of the 10th and will meet 2 other times during the school year and several times during the summer of 2019. The picture of success for our learning is: Writing is a standard/an expectation in every grade and every content and is embedded in the dailyness of school and in the work students are given.

Accountability

Accountability ratings have been posted for districts across the State. The Intermediate, High School and Junior High campuses received "Met Standard" over-all. However all three campuses must participate in school improvement activities due to falling short of Federal Accountability targets.

As a district we received an overall rating of a "C". Our legislators' and TEA's idea of the A-F system was to provide clarity, however, it has not. Our rating was based on pages and pages of data, many different formulas, and includes over 12,000 data points.

We all understand letter grades, but the final letter grade you earn on a report card is based on products and knowledge evidenced in multiple ways through many pieces of work throughout an entire school year. To take that same concept of a letter grade and have it come down to essentially one test - it is not the same. Our schools, teachers, students and ultimately our community are much more than a letter grade. During the October board meeting we will look closer at our ratings/letter grade by domains and the implications these ratings.

Submitted by: Angela Boyd & Sheila Bowman