



Date: August 7, 2024
To: Harlem Board of Education
Josh Aurand, Assistant Superintendent of Business Operations
Dr. Michelle Erb, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent
From: Jerry Harris, Harlem Middle School Principal
Jennifer Curless, Harlem Middle School Associate Principal
Jacob Hubert, Director of Secondary Education
Re: Comprehensive School Designation Partnership

In 2023, Harlem Middle School received a comprehensive designation from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). This designation brought with it funding from the state to develop a school improvement plan. The planning phase took place during the 2023-2024 school year, and Harlem Middle School will receive School Improvement grant funds over the next three years to support strategies identified in the school improvement plan.

A key requirement of the grant spending process is to select an Illinois Approved Learning Partner to assist with the implementation of the school improvement plan. The school improvement team at Harlem Middle School has engaged in numerous meetings over the summer. These meetings included a book study and a review of the services offered by partners listed on the Illinois Approved Learning Partner List.

Three of the identified goals found within the school improvement plan include:

- Decrease chronic absenteeism
- Increase literacy scores
- Increase mathematics scores

After careful consideration, the Harlem Middle School Improvement Team chose the Illinois Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Network as the partner best suited to meet these goals. MTSS is a systemic approach designed to identify students in need of support early, match students with appropriate strategies to support their needs, focus on the whole child, including academic, social-emotional, and behavioral growth

The IL MTSS Network is known for its expertise in providing professional development and support to schools, helping them implement research-based MTSS procedures effectively. Details of the services being provided by the IL MTSS Network can be found on the pages to follow.

Funding Source: School Improvement Grant Funds - \$16,560.