



# Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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**TO:** Members, Board of Education  
Dr. Carol Kelley, Superintendent

**FROM:** Dr. Felicia Starks Turner, Senior Director of Academic and Administrative Services

**RE:** Student Growth and Evidence-Based Practice - Executive Summary

**DATE:** September 28, 2015

**Type of report:** Informational

**Purpose of the report:** Through this report, we will provide the Board of Education with information regarding the role the ECRA model has and will continue to play in fostering and furthering the district's student growth and evidence-based practices. We will share how administrators are using these practices to help ensure that we remain mindful of and focused on the progress and development of every student. We will also highlight how we will utilize the ECRA portal to evaluate existing programs, assess their impact on student learning and determine their overall return on investment.

**Background on the partnership between District 97 and ECRA:** On April 23, 2013, the Board of Education entered into a service agreement with ECRA. The scope of services for this agreement included, but was not limited to:

- Managing a student achievement data warehouse.
- Creating a secure online portal for managing research and reports.
- Developing, hosting and maintaining a publicly accessible dashboard.
- Developing a student achievement growth model.
- Monitoring individual student growth and attainment.
- Linking student achievement to teacher and administrator evaluations.
- Evaluating the return on investment for programs and interventions.
- Developing cut scores and using the data to measure and monitor student growth.
- Performing benchmark analysis of district achievement against comparable districts.
- Consulting on strategic goal-setting and performance management.
- Developing district benchmarks.
- Assisting with professional development.

**Work to date:** Below is a summary of the work the district has completed during the past few years with assistance from ECRA.

### 2012-2013 School Year

ECRA trained members of the district's administrative leadership team on the use of its model.

### 2013-2014 School Year

- District administrators were trained on how to use student growth projections to target instructional support for children.
- The principal evaluation tool used by the district was modified to include student growth as a metric for measuring performance.

### 2014-2015 School Year

- ECRA met with the district's administrative leadership team to review student data from the previous year.
- Principals used the student data from the previous year to determine how best to factor student growth into their evaluations.
- The district's administrative leadership team discussed how to use the data from ECRA to evaluate programs.

### 2015-2016 School Year

- In August, the district's administrative team continued its training on the use of the ECRA model and reviewed student data from the previous year. It is important to note that this data did not include the results of the PARCC assessment (scores not available at the time) or spring MAP information (students in grades three through eight did not take the MAP test in the spring due to the administration of PARCC).
- Superintendent Kelley decided that ECRA, district administrators and teacher leaders would participate in "data chats" throughout the school year. This decision aligns with the district goal of building collaborative expertise.
- On September 22, Dr. Spearon from ECRA led a full-day training for principals, data coaches and RTI leaders from each building. Dr. Spearon is scheduled to meet with the district's administrative leadership team following the completion of each MAP test cycle to review the data, evaluate student progress and determine next steps. There will also be follow-up meetings with the data coaches and RTI leaders (date, time and location of the meetings are to be determined).

### **Recommended next steps:** (Aligned with Goal area 2)

- School administrators will use the ECRA data to help classroom teachers develop targeted instruction for students.
- District and school administrators will identify student groups that will be used to monitor student growth.
- "Data chats" will be held during administrative leadership team meetings on a regular basis.
- Principals will report on the progress/success of the strategies being used to monitor student growth.
- District administrators will use the ECRA model and student data to assess the effectiveness of student programs.

The board will receive an updated report on our student performance as soon as the PARCC scores have been released by the state and reviewed/analyzed by the district. In the meantime, please contact Superintendent Kelley if you have questions or need more information.