

PPS Update

February 10, 2017

The PPS Department continues its focus and collaboration with general education colleagues on improving the quality of reading instruction provided to all students throughout the district. The implementation of the District's Focused Monitoring Plan has begun with the primary focus of eliminating the achievement gap in the area of grade three reading between students with disabilities and their nondisabled peers. Special education teachers received an additional two training with consultants in October 2016 on implementation of the Spire Reading program. Special education teachers involved in the implementation of this specialized reading program, are beginning to report positive results in student performance. The PPS Department has contracted with Julie Foss, the former assistant principal at Moran Middle School, as a consultant to assist with the implementation of our Focused Monitoring Plan as well. Mrs. Foss will be working with the PPS Department one day per week for the remainder to of the school year to assist in the implementation of this initiative.

All elementary schools have completed its SRBI self assessment, as required by our Focused Monitoring Plan, in an effort to identify areas of strength and growth throughout the District in its implementation of SRBI and Intervention services. Middle school and high school colleagues are currently in the process of completing its SRBI self assessment at this time. Another primary focus of our District's Focused Monitoring Plan continues to be on increasing general education teacher capacity in providing high quality evidence based reading instruction to all students within the general education setting. Areas of need were identified by elementary teachers when completing the Foundations of Early Reading survey previously. This survey will again be completed by selected elementary teachers in the coming months.

The District's Focused Monitoring team continues to meet periodically to review the progress on the implementation of our Focused Monitoring Plan and will work closely with the EIP - Intervention Management Team to review the SRBI - Intervention procedures throughout the District. Recommended improvements to these critical procedures will be made through this management team as necessary. The Director of Pupil Personnel Services has also begun to attend building level faculty meetings to share the District's Focused Monitoring Plan in an effort to inform all staff on this crucial initiative. Thus far the Director has shared the plan with the staff at Moran and Dag Hammarskjold Middle Schools and has been invited to present at Lyman Hall and Sheehan High Schools as well as Rock Hill Elementary School. Kristina Kiely, who is a member of our District's Focused Monitoring Team and Principal of Stevens Elementary School has also shared this plan with the staff at Stevens School.

The PPS Department continues to collaborate with elementary principals and staff to address the increasing social, emotional and behavioral needs of students currently challenging our elementary schools throughout the 2016-2017 school year. In an effort to improve the quality of behavioral support provided to our early elementary school students the Board of Education supported the District in hiring eight Behavioral Technicians (BTs) from Connecticut Behavioral Health to support the development of students' pro-social behaviors within our pre-k through grade 2 schools. The Board of Education additionally supported the development of the District's elementary teacher support program for teachers interested in working alongside a Behavior Interventionist from Connecticut Behavioral Health to increase their capacity to manage student behaviors within the general education setting for the purpose of increasing student engagement and student behaviors that promote learning.

The PPS Department continues to oversee the District Climate Management team as well, and has set the District timeline for the administration of annual student, parent and staff climate surveys. Specific dates for the completion of each survey will be forwarded. Additionally, the PPS Department has begun its program planning for the 2017-2018 school year as well as its extended school year programming to occur this summer.

Finally, the PPS Department will be collaborating with the Personnel Department on filling anticipated open positions for the 2017-2018 school year due to the retirements of several of our staff members at the completion of the current school year.