











2014-2015 PRIORITY INITIATIVES

STATUS REPORT: OCTOBER 2014


STUDENT DEVELOPMENT




-  • Align after-school programming at Roosevelt Middle School with LEAP offerings at other middle schools. [support from the Foundation for Dubuque Public Schools will expand student offerings]
-  • Develop four elementary classrooms and one middle school classroom specifically designed to address behavior management. [students with challenging behaviors will have more resources to help them learn]
-  • Create initiatives to increase activity participation of students transitioning from eighth to ninth grade. [students will benefit from the development inherent in co- and extra-curricular activities]
-  • Launch the Green Dot violence prevention program for middle and high school students. [each student will be empowered to create a culture of accountability and respect]
-  • Review middle school performance character pilot and explore expansion. [performance character assessment will be enhanced and measured on student report cards]

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT





-  • Update policies and procedures for data sharing, school attendance, school readiness and summer learning. [these efforts support the community-wide action plan to enhance third-grade reading]
-  • Increase advocacy efforts related to student mental health issues and services. [the district will be a voice on this issue that touches many students and families]
-  • Redesign district/school websites, launch a cracker-barrel-style forum with administrators, and create a student advisory group. [stakeholders will be more informed and have new opportunities for feedback]
-  • Implement the Transition Alliance Program to increase local employability for students with disabilities. [students will see new pathways to career opportunities]
-  • Conduct outreach to increase building-level parent participation. [parent involvement in school-based initiatives will include a larger, more diverse set of parents]

EFFECTIVE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT





-  • Initiate planning for next stages of facility plan with focus on Senior High School renovation and a district pool solution. [continues a strategic approach to maximizing one-cent sales tax funding]

-  • Purchase 1,200 devices on 66 laptop carts in the district's five secondary schools and the ALC. [student/teacher technology access will be broadened through the 21st Century Learning Project]
-  • Develop a technology refresh cycle and implement the cloud-based Office 365 for Education solution. [students and staff will be able to connect and collaborate from virtually anywhere]
-  • Implement refined safety protocols and enhance physical security measures in the district. [update safety measures with current best practices]

EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE

-  • Hire, train and support over 200 teachers as they assume new teacher-leadership positions. [this paradigm shift will systemically change how teachers collaborate and learn from each other]
-  • Launch school-based professional learning on Friday-morning late starts. [maximize time to provide ongoing, impactful building-level training that enhances student learning]
-  • Provide monthly leadership-focused professional learning for district and school administrators. [ongoing sessions will provide administrators new tools to further enhance leadership skills]
-  • Implement a professional learning plan for para-professionals. [job-embedded training will give para-professionals new classroom skills]

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

-  • Develop and deploy the Iowa Core standards through common grade and course benchmark assessments. [course outcomes will work toward common objective and will be assessed consistently across the district]
-  • Implement the system of "Collaborative Inquiry" to plan, develop and deliver instruction based on the indicators of highly effective schools. [Building leadership teams will implement an evidence-based process to improve instruction for all students]
-  • Integrate the Iowa Core with "Multi-Tiered System of Support" to identify and respond to learning and behavior challenges. [staff will be able to better respond to the individual learning needs of students]
-  • Create and deliver a summer school program for kindergarten and first-grade students with low reading proficiency, and enhance ongoing instruction and assessment in this area. [young learners will have a chance to bolster critical early reading skills]