

KINNELON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

23-24 District Update -207 Day Report



David C. Mango, *Superintendent of Schools*

DISTRICT GOAL 1: STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

By the end of the 2023-2024 school year, the district will complete the following steps to improve student achievement across our schools in the following areas:

- a. **Mathematics & Science** - Evaluate state and internal measures in identifying curriculum resources to improve performance across all grade levels.
- b. **English/Language Arts** - Implement phonics into K-5 ELA instruction and grammar into 6-12.
- c. **Building Civic Awareness & Citizenship** - Develop and implement a civics literacy based (NJ/Social Studies) resource into the existing K-5 curriculum and cycle/semester based elective course in the 6-12 curriculum to be implemented in the 24-25 school year.
- d. **Special Education** - Evaluate our current classification practices, re-evaluation procedures, and tracking student progress, etc.

A. MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE

Progress



Mathematics

- **IXL Implementation (Grades K-5):** Implemented initial diagnostic in Sept-Oct & are monitoring progress/growth for intervention. Data used to identify students for supplemental support with programs like Touch Math.
- **Reveal Math Pilot (Grades 7-8):** Ongoing pilot providing a better balance of procedural/conceptual understanding for a more holistic learning experience. Will be fully implemented in 24-25 grades 6-8.
- **Revised District Math Benchmarks (Grades 3-11):** Aligned benchmarks with the skills and standards being taught at each grade level to track progress accurately.
- **Investigating IXL Takeoff Curriculum (Grades K-5):** Exploring new core resource alternatives for better alignment with standards to address the shortcomings of the existing curriculum.

A. MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE

Progress



Science

- **Revised District Science Benchmarks (Grades K-5):** Aligned benchmarks with the skills and standards being taught at each grade level to track progress accurately.
- **IQWST Unit Benchmarks (Grade 6-8):** Implemented the use of IQWST unit benchmarks to identify students in need of support.
- **Revised District Science Benchmarks (Grades 9-12):** Aligned benchmarks with the skills and standards being taught at each grade level to track progress accurately. Using Edulastic to collect data and identify students in need of support

B. ENGLISH / LANGUAGE ARTS

Progress

Grades K-5

K-2: Implementation of the Heggerty program for daily phonemic awareness instruction. Budgeting for additional Phonics resources for 24-25.

3-5: Implementation of the 95 Percent Group for daily phonics instruction. Teachers received 3 hours of professional development.

Grades 6-12

6-8: Implementation of iXL to obtain diagnostic data as well as skill development in Grammar and Writing Mechanics

9-12: Utilization of No Red Ink - an online tool for Grammar and Writing Instruction as well as adoption of Grammar workbooks to incorporate within ELA courses.

C. BUILDING CIVIC AWARENESS & CITIZENSHIP

Progress

Grades K-5

- **Rutgers Civics Professional Development** workshop attended by Grade 3-5 teachers. Additional teachers will also be attending the 3-5 Civics workshop offered in April 2024.
- **Savvas, My World Pilot** in grade 3 & 4 to include Civics instruction. One unit focused on New Jersey history and civic awareness.
- **TCI Civics Unit** taught in grade 5 aligned with civic awareness and citizenship
- **Citizenship and Civic Awareness** units taught through the Full Value Program (Grades K-5) and Brain Pop/Brain Pop Jr online resources

Grades 6-12

- Since 2022, four specific units of Civics have been taught at **PRM** in grades **7** and **8**
- Curriculum realignment of all Social Studies courses have been discussed with PRM teachers
- Proposed curriculum realignment would allow all four units of Civics to be taught consecutively in 7th grade in the future
- Proposed High School Half-Year Elective (10-12): **You and the Law**

D. SPECIAL EDUCATION

Progress

CST Reorganization

- 2 Social Workers; 3 School Psychologists; 3 LDTCs, 1 BCBA
- Balanced Caseloads: Case managers assigned to grades recently in their schools for student familiarity; New person paired w/ a veteran
- Handle With Care - Safe emergency hold training by Master Trainer.
- Para Support Data System: Determine needs; inform Goals & Objectives; Measure progress

Mental Health

- Refined Risk Assessment Procedure: Aligned to district policy
- Training in Columbia Risk Assessment for all Suicide Prevention Professionals
- Established BEAM Team (Behavior & Mental Health Assistance Team): In each school; Monthly review of all tiered behavior and mental health cases w/ counselors, social workers, and psycs
- PRM: Introduced 6-week Executive Function Groups

Special Education

- Prek: Exploring Full-day Prek; Updating training and materials in Creative Curriculum for Prek Classrooms
- K - 2: Orton-Gillingham Training Piloted; Planning for Resource Teachers for 2024-25
- 3-8: Piloting Corrective Reading: Direct Instruction for Phonics and Comprehension
- 9-12: Established comprehensive work-based learning program w/ 5 job sites
- Transition Coordinator Position: Developing expanded community-based and job experience opportunities for 11-12th graders and 18-21 year old learners.
- Initiated Unified/Special Olympics Grant

DISTRICT GOAL 2: TECHNOLOGY

Develop a district office for Educational Technology to include: vision, oversight of all educational applications, platforms, possible S.I.S. upgrade linked with communication, website reconfiguration, & consistent professional development for staff.

Progress

- **Developed a 1:1 Digital Learning Environment & Device Guidelines Handbook**
 - Developed guidelines to support the integration of 1:1 devices and communicated these procedures to students, parents, and staff to ensure consistency and accountability.
- **Device Upgrades & Enhanced Technology Access**
 - Replaced devices in Grades 9-12 as an initial phase of ensuring students have access to up-to-date technology.
 - Expanded technology access for students at Kiel School, improving opportunities for digital learning.
- **Clever Integration**
 - Utilized Clever to streamline access to various learning apps across the district

DISTRICT GOAL 2: TECHNOLOGY (CONTINUED)

Progress



- **New Position Created**

- On 9/26/23 the BOE approved K-12 Director of Education, Informational Systems, Platforms and Staff Development, effective 7/1/24.
- Educational Technology Roadmap presented at November 14, 2023 public meeting

- **Realtime Student Information System**

- Will transition from OnCourse beginning July 1, 2024 for families and staff
- Core planning process began in December
- Data transfers & trainings have been set up through March & will continue through July
- Modules include a notification system

- **New District Website (via Finals site)**

- Implementation process will begin the week of 1/29
- Twelve-week conversion process with a tentative launch date of 4/22

DISTRICT GOAL 3: FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

- a) Develop a cost/benefit analysis between contract transportation compared to district owned transportation (could include interlocal agreements with other districts). This may involve changing start/end times for schools.
- b) Develop a plan to accept tuition based students for the 24-25 school year.

Progress



A cost benefit presentation was presented at the 1/23/24 public meeting and will be considered as a possibility during the 24-25 budget development process and beyond.

Tuition discussions have been touched upon and will continue to be explored during the upcoming budget development process.

DISTRICT GOAL 4: COMMUNICATION & TRANSPARENCY

Create a publicly available district dashboard that tracks district initiatives, program utilization and highlights student/staff involvement.

Progress

- **ColtConnect** is currently being developed by the administrative team
- Will be interactive for community stakeholders to better understand how the district is achieving success and meeting goals
- Six key areas of focus as seen in logo →
- Will launch in the late spring on our new website



BOARD GOAL 1

By June 30, 2024, the Kinnelon Board of Education will develop a five year Strategic Plan Action Plan for implementation July 1, 2024.

Progress



- **Meeting 1 (9/27/23)** - KPS administrators, staff, board members, parents, and community members came together to initiate strategic planning and brainstorm the strengths and challenges/opportunities of the district.
- **Meeting 2 (11/2/23)** - Participants brainstormed their top 10 visionary ideas for the district's success in the year 2028 and outcomes were shared.
- **Meeting 3 (1/25/24)** - This final meeting will involve writing goal statements using the input from the two previous sessions.

5 Year Action Plan & Vision Statement will be presented for approval at the June 11, 2024 public meeting.

BOARD GOAL 2

By June 30, 2024, the Kinnelon Board of Education will have completed a demographic study for community review.

Progress



- A contract with Statistical Forecasting, LLC. (cost of \$7,800) to perform a demographic study this school calendar year was approved by the Board of Education at the November 14, 2023 public meeting.
- The anticipated date for completion is March of 2024.
- All findings and results will be discussed at a future public meeting -date to be determined.

BOARD GOAL 3

By June 30, 2024, the Kinnelon Board of Education will have a completed facility assessment project priority list for appropriate financial planning and possible referendum.

Progress



- At the April 25th, 2023 public meeting, the Board of Education authorized DiCara Rubino Architects to conduct a district-wide facility assessment (cost of \$44,000).
- The assessment was completed throughout the summer and early Fall of 2023. Those findings were presented at the November 14, 2023 public meeting.
- Discussions with stakeholders are ongoing as to a future referendum for facility upgrades.

Thank You!

