



Hudson Junior High School

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2016-17 Improvement Plan

1) Comprehensive Needs Assessment

The Junior High School, for the 2016-17 school year, will be adding the 6th grade to the current 7th and 8th grades. Previously, the transition to 7th grade has been difficult for many students due to the added academic and social responsibilities. The Junior High School Leadership Team developed what we feel is an excellent plan to meet the 6th grade students needs so they can be successful as 6th graders and better prepared for 7th grade the following year. The School Leadership Team developed a plan based on an informal DTSDE building review by Dr. Suttmeier (Superintendent) and Mrs. Prestipino (Coordinator of School Improvement) as well as the District's Vision 2020 Goals and Targets. Monthly meetings will be used in working towards meeting the District's Goals.

2) Schoolwide Reform Strategies

During the 2016-17 school year, 6th grade teachers will be departmentalized to become more specialized in the content area they will be teaching. 6th grade students will follow a different schedule than 7th and 8th grade and will transition between classes at different times. All students in the Junior High will take practice assessment tests in LinkIt and Fastbridge for ELA and Math. These

assessments will assist in determining students' strengths and weaknesses and getting them extra assistance if necessary. Math teachers will be implementing a Student Centered Collaborative Classroom Structure with the assistance of Teaching and Learning Coaches. This model will assist with teacher collaboration and their ability to provide instruction that leads to multiple points of access for all students. Special Education Teachers have moved from a consultant teacher to co-teaching model for more student contact. The Junior High will administer and analyze LinkIt and Fastbridge ELA and Math assessments which are aligned to the Common Core Standards. This data and with the assistance of the Questar III Math Specialist, teachers will be able to identify trends and adjust their teaching based on the data. Grade level meetings will be added this year so that the Administrator can discuss Cross-Curricular content and specific students that may be struggling and what resources and/or interventions they may need.

3) Instruction by Highly Qualified Teachers

The Junior High works closely with the Human Resources Department at the District level to ensure that all teachers in the building are properly certified and meet the criteria of Highly Qualified. There are no teachers in the Junior High that are uncertified or teaching outside of their certification area. Postings for vacant positions are placed on OLAS to reach a wider candidate pool.

4) High Quality and Ongoing Professional Development

The Junior High will continue to provide its faculty with Professional Development with the focus of increasing collaboration in every classroom amongst students so that they take more of an active role in their learning. The District also has Teaching and Learning Coaches/Specialists that are also available for ELA, Math, Social Studies, Special Education, ENL and technology.

5) Strategies to Attract High Quality Highly Qualified Teachers to High Needs Schools

All buildings in the District are Title I buildings so no one building has a greater need for High Quality Highly Qualified teachers over the others. Building administrators discuss teacher placement, across the District, regularly with each other and with the Superintendent. Teachers are reassigned as the administrative

unit deems necessary. The OLAS website for hiring new staff has been reinstated as well as utilizing various social media sites to share postings. Teaching assistants, who also possess teacher certification, are also recruited in classes with the greatest need.

6) Strategies to Increase Parental Involvement

SMART building goals will be communicated to staff, families, and students across the school community several times throughout the year via newsletters and presentations. Parent Coordinators from the HCSD Community Schools work with students and families that need additional support due to attendance and/or academic concerns. The process of locating, informing and encouraging families will continue throughout the school year, especially for report card conferences and to improve chronic attendance issues.

7) Transition plans to assist preschool children from early childhood programs to the elementary school program

The Junior High has students in grades 6th, 7th and 8th. This element is not applicable.

8) Measures to include teachers in decisions regarding the use of academic assessments and the use of assessment data to inform instruction

Academic Intervention Services (AIS) are provided to students needing assistance based on New York State ELA and Math exams, LinkIt, Fastbridge and SRI assessments. The assessment exams will facilitate the use of data to inform instruction which will be discussed at grade level, department and faculty meetings. Additionally, the assessment exam results will be able to assist with the data collection for RTI to substantiate the process. Language Live will continue to be utilized in Self-Contained Special Education classrooms to assess and improve students' reading levels. Common Planning time is built into the schedule to help facilitate collaboration between teachers.

9) Activities to ensure that students who experience difficulty attaining proficiency receive effective and timely additional assistance.

Students will be provided Academic Intervention Services (AIS) based on New York State ELA and Math exams, LinkIt, Fastbridge and SRI assessments. Individual students will be discussed at grade level meetings and plans put into place for struggling students.

10) Coordination and integration of Federal, State and Local Services and Programs

The Junior High will continue to collaborate with the Hudson Community Schools program to help facilitate increased parent involvement. The Community School Parent Coordinators will work with identified students and attend attendance meetings to decrease chronic absenteeism. All 7th grade students will participate and attend Power of Peace facilitated by Michael Arteberry. The program's mission is improving the quality of life of young people through Positive Youth Development in a safe, supportive environment, encouraging youth to become active, productive member of their families, schools and communities.