

# Superintendent's Bulletin

## "SERIOUS COMMITMENT TO STUDENT SUCCESS"

September 27, 2017



**TO: ALL RSD STAFF**  
**FROM: PEGGY DININNO**  
**SUBJ: Updates**

### **Superintendent's Bulletin**

This Bulletin is published periodically to provide staff with updates and other important information.

### **A New School Year**

Thank you for a great start to a new school year! I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to all of you who have worked in any way to assist our students with their transition to a new school year of learning. Your effort truly makes a difference!

### **2017-2018 Goals**

Please take some time to revisit our goals for the new school year and reflect on how you are using your particular role on our team to assist all of us with accomplishing these goals. No matter what role you have or what grade level of students you work with, we can all play our own part in supporting the accomplishment of these goals:

1. Supporting and improving academic achievement in grades 5-8, utilizing a team oriented problem solving approach.
2. Supporting and improving the social and academic transitions needs

of students as they move from elementary to secondary school utilizing a team oriented approach.

3. Implementing a District Wellness Plan utilizing shared responsibilities.

### **PA Common Core**

Teachers are reminded to revisit the PA Core standards and anchors related to their students. An awareness and understanding of the specific standards and grade level anchors is essential to setting classroom goals and providing our students with appropriate instruction at each grade level. We will continue to focus as much time as possible on our PD days to align our curriculum to the PA Common Core across grade levels.

### **Student Friendly Learning Objectives**

Teachers are reminded to write and refer to student friendly learning goals at the beginning and end of every lesson. Research supports this practice. Take some time to ask your children about these learning goals. Goals should be aligned with relevant PA Common Core anchors and student needs.

### **Achievement and Growth**

PSSA scores can assist us with measuring student achievement towards mastery of PA COMMON

CORE standards at each grade level.

PVAAS data can assist us with measuring how much a student has grown academically over the course of one year.

BOTH data sources provide us with valuable information that can be used to assist teachers with making quality instructional decisions to meet the changing needs of our students.

Please take some time to revisit the important concept of student "Growth". The following video clip provides an excellent refresher on the importance of annual student learning and growth. I encourage you to go to the link below and review an 8 minute video on this very important topic.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9RIMVvMfxGr1MmINcjrU2NYcVU/view>

(Note: type a zero for 0 and use lower case L where I is indicated)

### **Data and Customized Instruction**

It is important to determine where students are at in order to make effective instructional decisions that will assist students with learning. Using the latest PSSA data, CDT data, informal and formal classroom assessments, and

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PVAAS data can assist us with determining our students' current abilities so that we can make research-based instructional decisions to best support their needs.

### **Instructional Resources**

It is important to remember that the textbook selected and provided to teachers is not our curriculum. The textbook is a foundational resource that should be supplemented as needed by teachers who make quality, research-based instructional decisions in order to assist our students with mastering the PA Common Core standards/anchors **AND BEYOND**. Please contact your building principal to assist you if you have questions or concerns about the resources you need to accomplish this goal.

### **Press Releases**

Please continue to make Elissa Miller aware of the great things happening in your buildings and the accomplishments of our staff and students. Kindly send a summary - including who, what, when, where, why and anything else that's important to [emiller@rsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:emiller@rsd.k12.pa.us). We will help you spread the good news. Thank you!

### ***Unplanned or Weather Delays and Closings***

When it becomes necessary to close school due to inclement weather, TV stations are notified, our web page is updated, and a phone message system is activated. The safety of our students and staff is important to us. Parents always have the option of keeping their children at home in the event of unsafe conditions. Staff should consider conditions before starting out in the morning.

### **Superintendent/Parent Workshops**

Parents are invited and encouraged to join Dr. DiNinno to learn more about District activities and programs through informal discussions. If you have a topic that you would like me (Dr. DiNinno) to discuss with parents, kindly email me and I would gladly consider it as part our agenda/discussions.

### ***DISTRICT WEB PAGE***

Our School District website serves as a valuable tool for sharing and communicating important information to staff and families. Please visit the site regularly and review the information.

[www.rsd.k12.pa.us](http://www.rsd.k12.pa.us)

### **2017-2018 Action Steps**

- Root Cause Analysis of student academic needs
- Vertical alignment and articulation sessions across grade level – PA Common Core
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade JHSH Customized Period
- Reading Specialist
- Columbia University Workshop
- Data analysis tools and sessions
- SLOs aligned to student needs
- Text Dependent Analysis Training
- K-12 Writing Framework refinement
- STEAM Integration at Elementary Schools
- RCEP enhancements
- Yearlong PD Plan
- Pen Pal Program
- Teacher Switch Days
- Teacher School Visits
- Pep Assemblies
- Review Transitional Programs
- Wellness Committees
- Wellness Initiatives
- Health Symposium
- Allegheny Well District
- Elementary Wellness Initiatives
- New Wellness Policy