

# SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

2018 - 2019



**CAPITOL REGION EDUCATION COUNCIL**

## **Discovery Academy**

**Kurt Stanco, Principal**

**Tom Reed-Swale, Assistant Principal**

**School Name: Discovery Academy**

**School Vision:** The vision of CREC's Discovery Academy is to provide a collaborative, safe learning environment that nurtures scientific curiosity, encourages innovation, empowers critical thinkers and challenges students to explore the unknown.

**School Mission:** The mission of CREC's Discovery Academy is to engage students in problem-solving and inquiry-based learning experiences that will prepare students for life in a technology-oriented, interconnected world.

**District Focus Areas:**

**Equity** for 2018-19 is focusing on racial, ethnic and socio-economic equity.

**Instruction** for 2018-19 is focusing on activities of teachers and students in the classroom which is distinct from curriculum and assessment and demonstrates understanding of the challenges and opportunities presented by instructing in a CREC classroom which brings racial, ethnic and socio-economic diversity.

**Relationships** for 2018-19 is focusing on the dynamics of relationships amongst and between students, families, school based staff, community, administration and/or central office.

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**School Improvement Planning**

**Goal #1: To improve instruction through inquiry and student engagement.**

**Rationale: Discovery Academy has made significant gains in the use of accountable talk and student discussion over the last 18 school months. We believe there exists a need to continue to further inquiry and engagement among students. The next level work will improve instruction through inquiry, student-made rubrics, peer and self-assessment, as well as discussions with limited teacher mediation. Two areas we believe provide opportunities to leverage this work are science and writing instruction.**

<b>Measurable Objectives/Actions</b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>	<b>Measurement</b>	<b>Resource(s)</b>	<b>Month Due</b>
Emphasize accountable talk and “talk moves” in all areas of instruction.	Teachers	Semi-formal observations	<i>Talk Science Primer</i>	Ongoing
Develop student-made rubrics for inquiry and collaborative work. Implement student-to-student conferences for peer and self-scoring.	Literacy Coach Leadership Teachers	Examples of created rubrics in grades 2-5	Slides from Julie Christianson	Sept.-Nov.
Conduct peer observations during science instruction. Provide time for feedback and reflections.	Leadership, Theme Coach, Teachers	Teacher reflections (Stop, Start, Continue)	Sub coverage	Oct, Dec., Feb. (2 Grade Levels Per Month)
Increase the number of semi-formal observations and feedback during science and writing instruction.	Leadership	Semi-formal observations		Nov., Jan., March (Follow up previous month peer grades)
Provide professional development that focuses on instructional strategies that support NGSS teaching.	Leadership, Theme Coach, Teachers	PD/ staff meeting calendar	Slides from Julie Christianson	Ongoing

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Implement K-5 student writing portfolios by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing lessons to create, implement, and select writing pieces to publish in portfolios.</li> <li>• Providing professional development to develop the use of SeeSaw (K-2) and Google Drive (3-5) as a writing portfolio platform.</li> <li>• Creating a system for students to provide rationales for their writing portfolio choices.</li> <li>• Implementing student, teacher, and parent feedback on portfolio pieces.</li> </ul>	Literacy Coach Leadership Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lesson Plans</li> <li>• Photos of students sharing published writing</li> <li>• Examples of writing on Google Drive and SeeSaw</li> <li>• Teacher-created rubrics</li> </ul>	SeeSaw and Google Drive	Ongoing
Highlight examples of good writing during assemblies, morning announcements, and family events.	Literacy Coach Leadership Teachers	Photos of students sharing published writing		Ongoing

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**Goal #2: To promote equity at Discovery Academy through staff development and reflection in the areas of social emotional learning, instruction, and school culture.**

**Rationale: In the spirit of CREC’s Core Value “Demand Equity,” the staff at Discovery engaged in multiple trainings dealing with institutional racism, privilege, and our personal biases. Additionally, our Equity Committee work included examining disproportionality in academic, behavioral (both positive and negative) data as well as reviews of relevant books and articles. The next steps in this work will address the psychological and academic impacts of institutional racism, how they manifest in our building’s practices, and working to counter them with knowledge and empathy to create more specific action steps for each area identified in our goal.**

<b>Measurable Objectives/Actions</b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>	<b>Measurement</b>	<b>Resource(s)</b>	<b>Month Due</b>
Increase the scope of the Equity Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a mission and vision for the Discovery Academy Equity team.</li> <li>• Recruit new members, including parents, for the Equity Committee in order to offer further diverse perspectives.</li> <li>• Elicit feedback from non-committee staff as to goals for an equity initiative.</li> <li>• Create a subcommittee that will examine curricular materials and instructional techniques to present to staff.</li> </ul>	Leadership Equity Committee Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee Membership Rosters</li> <li>• Mission and Vision Statements</li> <li>• Meeting Agendas</li> <li>• Semi-Formal Observations</li> </ul>	Articles School Data District Data National Data	Ongoing
Turnkey administrative professional development with staff and families.	Leadership	Professional Development Plans	Resources and activities shared at administrative PD.	Ongoing

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Create master schedule mandating social emotional learning (SEL) lessons for students a minimum of three days a week.	Leadership	Grade level schedules	Master Schedule	July 2018
Through personal outreach and planning events within the city of Hartford to provide Hartford families increased opportunities to engage in school events.	Leadership Family Liaison	Seesaw posts Records from planned events	Powerschool Seesaw	Ongoing