

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

2019 - 2020



CAPITOL REGION EDUCATION COUNCIL

Discovery Academy

Kurt Stanco, Principal

Kimberlee Matthews, 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 2019-20 is focusing on racial, ethnic and socio-economic equity.

Instruction for 2019-20 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 2019-20 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 student engagement by focusing on equitable instructional practices.

Rationale: As noted by Charlotte Danielson in *The Framework for Teaching: Evaluation Instrument*, “student engagement in learning is the centerpiece of the Framework for Teaching: all other components contribute to it.” While previous plans have targeted instruction, we believe that we should place an increased focus on engagement. More specifically, our work in student engagement will identify and implement practices that align with the Equity-Centric Classroom. Our goal is to have all students be “minds-on” with the intellectual challenges with which they are presented.

Measurable Objectives/Actions	Person(s) Responsible	Measurement	Resource(s)	Month Due
Develop anchor lessons by grade level for Accountable Talk Moves and the 8 Math Practices. Implement within the first 20 days and again in winter.	Teachers Coaches Administrators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creation of Student Rubrics ● Development of Model Lessons ● Staff meeting time to present and reflect on this instruction. 	3 ACT Math Tasks' Lessons in community drive	Lessons: Summer 2019 Implementation: September and ongoing
Continued development of K-5 student writing portfolios by: Refining lessons to create, implement, and select writing pieces to publish in portfolios Refine Rubrics and develop a vertical scope and sequence for K-5 Support teachers with the use of SeeSaw/Google platforms for writing Refine a student reflection system	Coaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student portfolios ● Rubrics ● Seesaw/Google posts ● Photos 	SeeSaw Google Drive	Ongoing

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Implement student, teacher, and parent feedback on portfolios				
Implement Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) a minimum of twice per unit.	Classroom Teachers Clare Cristina	Informal observations by admin and Cristina Student accountability using CGI math station.	Implementation guides	Ongoing
Professional Development on Equitable Classroom Practices.	Equity Team Inclusion Club Team Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-Formal observations by admin. • Instructional Rounds / Coaching Cycles 	CT Center for School Change Resources	Ongoing
Lit. and Math Coach will work with grade levels in month-long instructional coaching cycles, co-teaching, and observations of practice. Potential areas of focus for this work will be determined based on feedback from teachers and may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGI Lessons • Structured Literacy • Number Talks • Math Practices • Foundations • Equitable Classroom Practices 	Diane Leja Cristina Frenkel	Calendar of coaching cycles		October and ongoing
Expand Foundations word study instruction by training additional staff that will include: PreK, Grade 3, and support staff.	Noelle Garneau Melissa Hickey	Prof Dev on Foundations implementation and co-teaching to start up the program	<i>Foundations Kits for each PREK teacher</i>	Sept- Ongoing support-Monthly check ins after training

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Use both in-house and external training to expand the Structured Literacy Approach in grades K-3.	Noelle Garneau Melissa Hickey	-In house Workshops and Training to utilize effective lessons across K-3	Included in Discovery PLC Schoology Course	Start of year P/D-ongoing support for AI's and Staff
Plan for regular staff meeting time to focus on and reflect on SIP goals and progress.	Administrators Coaches	Meeting Agendas, Reflections	School Improvement Plan	October and ongoing
Develop lessons that utilize the 5-E and EER (CYS) Model in science coaching meetings, focusing on the "Explore" phase.	Clare Nesoralla Julie Christenson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charts showing Explore connection to Phenomena • Celebrating student initiated "explores" • Teacher reflect on lessons as a grade-level team. 		Ongoing

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Goal #2: To improve relationships by increasing and deepening social-emotional skills.

Rationale: This goal encompasses both student and adult learning. Data shows we disproportionately consequence students of color compared to their white counterparts. Additionally, Hispanic students and those coming from Hartford are far more likely to be chronically absent. By increasing adult capacity for empathy and improving the connections with students and families, our goal is to create greater relationships and improve the climate and culture of Discovery for all students.

Measurable Objectives/Actions	Person(s) Responsible	Measurement	Resource(s)	Month Due
Provide professional development on trauma-informed practices.	Viana Turcios-Cotto	PD Plan	Articles Model Lessons Compiled resources on Schoology	Fall 2019
Improve the Behavior EIP referral and service delivery model to better meet individual student needs by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implement a screening process ● Provide additional options for Tier II / III ● Implement a Social Skills Screener ● Provide protocols for teacher input/involvement ● Scheduling of EIP Meetings 	Administration EIP Team Teachers	Plan Notes Teacher Inquiry Documentation Student progress reports	Social Skills Screen Protocols	Ongoing
Increase Student Leadership Through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ambassadors ● Student-led assembly segments 	PBIS Coaches Kim Matthews Changemaker	Implementation of action steps		Ongoing

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Changemakers ● Inter-grade buddy system 	Sarah 5th Martucci 4th Clare			
<p>Improve response to negative or unexpected behaviors through staff professional development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS) ● Balanced and Restorative Justice Discipline (BARD) ● Choose Love ● Second Step 	Staff Administration Coaches	Behavior data disaggregated by race/ethnicity Climate Survey data Chronic absenteeism data	Articles and documentation in Schoology course	Ongoing
<p>Review, reflect on, and revise policies, procedures, and practices in regards to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Race ● Gender ● Ethnicity ● Sexual Orientation 	Staff Administration Coaches	Behavior data disaggregated by race/ethnicity Climate Survey data Chronic absenteeism data		Ongoing
Start GSA/Inclusion Clubs for all grades.	Equity Team Inclusion Club Advisors	Monthly club meetings	Second Step: Anti-Bullying curriculum GLSEN - Ready, Set, Respect Curriculum	October