

Aurora Public Schools
Unified Improvement Plan Summary (2014-16)

Root Cause #1: Proficiency & Academic Growth:

The Aurora Public Schools lacks consistent implementation of effective standards-driven instructional practices in reading, writing, math, science and social studies. The school district needs to ensure alignment between standards, curricular resources and assessments and fully engage systems that provide differentiated professional learning for teachers and school leaders.

Root Cause #2: Academic Growth Gaps:

The Aurora Public Schools lacks formative assessment systems and response mechanisms that are important to ensure the acceleration of learning for every student. APS needs to develop and implement formative assessment practices and multi-tiered systems of support in a manner that gains advantage from the assets and is responsive to the needs demonstrated by each students.

Root Cause #3: Dropout/Graduation Rates:

The Aurora Public Schools lacks the systems and strategies necessary to engage a plan for graduation and post-secondary success for every student. The school district needs to significantly improve the alignment of our Post-Secondary Workforce Readiness systems to create an aligned, refined and predictable process for PWR planning with every Aurora Public Schools student.

Major Improvement Strategy #1:

Create a strong culture of performance by engaging a system of supervision and support for schools that ensures equitable distribution of resources, provides for effective planning mechanisms, effectively monitors and supports implementation of priority actions, ensures a high level of just-in-time support for teachers, principals and school communities and provides for clear avenues of communication and support between central offices and school sites. *Root Causes Addressed: 1, 2 & 3*

Major Improvement Strategy #2:

Ensure strong alignment between the Colorado Academic Standards, curricular resources/pacing guides, and formative and accountability-level assessments so that teachers and school leaders will confidently and effectively engage these resources to inform and support data-sourced planning and teaching and learning to mastery. *Root Causes Addressed: 1 & 2*

Major Improvement Strategy #3:

Provide high quality, job embedded, differentiated professional learning to teachers and school leaders that is grounded in the Colorado Academic Standards and data-driven teaching and learning cycles and evaluated by the learning outcomes of our students. *Root Causes Addressed: 1 & 2*

Major Improvement Strategy #4:

Through the implementation of Multi-tiered Systems of Support at each school site, ensure the engagement of effective universal, targeted and intensive learning experiences for students currently performing below grade-level expectation and, specifically, for Students with Disabilities, students with Significant Reading Deficiencies, and students at risk for dropping out or not advancing successfully into post-graduate learning and/or work force experiences. *Root Causes Addressed: 1 & 3*

Major Improvement Strategy #5:

Engage parents/guardians and community members in ongoing partnership and collaboration with school and district leaders to ensure that there is effective communication between school and home, that parents are able to understand and participate in the learning process, and that there are opportunities for community involvement in order to accelerate the learning of all students. *Root Causes Addressed: 2 & 3*