





# Advanced Learning Update - Overview

- Background
- Department Progress
- A Strong Foundation
- Areas of Focus
- Next Steps
- Questions



- Current Advanced Learning (AL) Plan approved (2014)
- Advanced Learning Instructional Resource Teachers (AL-IRTs), managed by AL Director, each work across 2-3 schools
- AL-IRTs document identification data for students in five (5) Domains: **General Intellectual, Specific Academic, Leadership, Creativity, and the Arts**
- External evaluation of AL Department (2016) with RMC comprehensive report (2017)
- Findings are guiding current revision of Advanced Learning Plan.

## **Dr. Ethan Netterstrom - Director of Advanced Learning (April 2017)**

- ▶ Conducted 40+ school visits
- ▶ Met one-on-one with AL-IRTs
- ▶ Attended multiple parent meetings
- ▶ Observed multiple trends within the External Evaluation:
  - ❑ **Better define identification processes**
  - ❑ **Serve more diverse group of students**
  - ❑ **Develop AL Department streamlined communication processes**
  - ❑ **Clarify and strengthen role of AL IRTs**
  - ❑ **Adjust levels of support at schools**
  - ❑ **Establish Advanced Learning Advisory Committee of diverse stakeholders aligned with OCR resolution**

# Building on a Strong Foundation

- AL-IRTs currently work with all elementary and middle schools
- Parent Advisory Committee provides input and feedback on AL work
- Identification process is currently in place to identify student needs
  - **OASYS Data is being used to track AL services and interventions**
- AL-IRTs are responsive to student, family and school needs
- Robust Math supports and structures are being well implemented
- Increased access to Honors and AP classes for all students

**As we review the recommendations across the 5 priority areas please consider...**

- Do these areas of focus make sense?
- Will the prioritized areas of focus have the greatest positive impact on our students?
- What is still missing?



Ensure identification process promote equity and access across all five (5) Advanced Learning domains:

- ★ **Explore current implementation of universal screeners** to determine if they are used with fidelity (COGAT, MAP, iReady)
- ★ **Use universal screeners for Leadership, Creativity, and the Arts** with fidelity (USTARS/TOPS, Portfolios)
- ★ **Use local and group cut scores** to better identify students across all populations
- ★ **Communicate revised identification process** to all stakeholders with better clarity of Tier 2 and 3 Interventions/Services



**Build capacity of AL-IRTs to support and coach teacher teams, analyze data, lead peer professional development, and provide direct services:**

- ★ **Invest in professional development on differentiation and flexible grouping strategies aligned to the use of NWEA/MAP data**
- ★ **Collaborate with content areas teams and AL Department to align work streams and co-develop resources**
- ★ **Develop school-level action plans to increase accountability**
- ★ **Integrate AL-IRT professional learning into common learning agenda**



**AL-IRTs and schools will use standardized tools, templates, and protocols for streamlined communication:**

- ★ **Provide feedback and accountability** through a new AL Advisory Committee with diverse stakeholders
- ★ **Finalize and maintain a user-friendly Parent/Community and Staff website**
- ★ **Share public communication calendar** including types and frequency of communication to expect from AL-IRTs and schools
- ★ **Focus more attention on transitions** between grade levels and schools to create a more seamless experience for students

### Connect the work of AL-IRTs to the larger MTSS framework & School Improvement Planning (SIP) process:

- ★ **Stabilize staffing** across K-8 schools with baseline 0.5 AL-IRT
- ★ **Support proactive & collaborative planning** with teachers, coaches, and interventionists through strategic use of AL-IRT time and efforts
- ★ **Strengthen the role of AL-IRTs** with focus on clarity & capacity-building
- ★ **Intentionally support high schools** with the goal to increase access and participation in advanced, accelerated, and AP coursework

### Create school-based Advanced Learning incentives, accountability systems, and metrics:

- ★ **Develop accountability trackers** to monitor AL-IRTs, school supports, communication, and AL plan implementation
- ★ **Implement consistent identification procedures & protocols** across all schools to eliminate cultural bias
- ★ **Provide more time & focus across all five (5) domains**
- ★ **Collaborate with other departments** to provide resources and services to address social emotional needs of students with advanced learning needs

**Advanced Learning Department will seek feedback & input from the Board of Ed, families, principals, and AL-IRTs to make the needed updates to the Advanced Learning Plan**

- ❖ Opportunities for further collaboration will include:**
  - June & July 2017: AL-IRT working groups
  - July & August 2017: Seek feedback from other departments, school staff, and families
- ❖ New AL Advisory Committee will be established**
- ❖ Draft of revised AL Plan to Board of Ed by August 7, 2017**
- ❖ Proposed Advanced Learning Plan to Board of Ed for feedback in Fall 2017 prior to finalizing**

Please help us by sharing your feedback and input:

- Do these areas of focus make sense?
- Will the prioritized areas of focus have the greatest positive impact on our students?
- What is still missing?







*Thank  
you!*