



Clayton County Public Schools

INSTRUCTIONAL UPDATE

For Parents and Community

First 9-Weeks

October 2017

Parents and community,

We are pleased to share that our students are in school and engaged in learning their grade-level standards. Principals and teachers are working collaboratively to ensure the content standards are taught to students on a level that will result in students demonstrating mastery. One of the areas that we must continue to address is that of closing the gap between prior grade-level knowledge and what is required to be successful in the current grade-level. To assist with this, qualifying students may be enrolled in the Early Intervention Program (EIP) at the Grade K-5 elementary level and Remedial Education Program (REP) at the Grade 6-12 secondary level.

Another area of focus includes supporting students with deficits in prior knowledge and skills who may not qualify for EIP or REP. These students' learning of grade-level content continues to be a challenge. Therefore, we are researching effective online tools in reading and mathematics that will help students learn these necessary skills and content. We are seeking online tools that can be used both at school and at home on a computer, laptop, iPad, or even with an iPhone. We firmly believe that this effort, coupled with what our teachers are doing daily in the classroom, will help us flip our data to reflect more students performing at higher levels. Specifically, we want and expect to see more students successfully performing at the Proficient and Distinguished levels on the Georgia Milestones Assessments. An update on our progress in this area will be shared during the next Parent and Community Instructional Update.

As we teach students the grade-level content, and as we address the prior grade-level deficits, we are going to be reviewing and revising our promotion and retention policy and practices. We recognize that there are many factors that impact achievement outcomes. Therefore, we do not support the practice of using one state test to retain students. We will be engaging our community to help us identify our agreed upon expectations for students to be promoted and retained. We ask that you make plans to participate in any meetings or surveys once they are planned and communicated.

In conclusion, please work with your child's teacher(s) and principal to ensure that he/she is learning the grade-level content standards and, if necessary, participating in tutorials or increased learning time opportunities. Please consistently check your child's progress using Infinite Campus. Also, we encourage you to visit the school, its Parent-Resource Room, attend Parent-Teacher Conferences, and call or/and utilize email to maintain a clear and open line of communication with the school. As the school and home work together, our students will achieve higher levels of performance.

Dr. Morcease J. Beasley
Superintendent of Schools/CEO