



Bakersfield City School District

Doc Ervin, Superintendent

1300 Baker Street
Bakersfield, CA 93306-4399
Phone (661) 631-4610
Fax (661) 324-3190
www.bcsd.com

Board of Education

Lillian Tafoya, President
Dr. Raymond Gonzales, President Pro-tem
Pam Baugher, Clerk
Dr. Fred L. Haynes, Clerk Pro-tem

January 24, 2017

Dear Board of Trustees:

This is a recommendation for the Bakersfield City School District Board of Education to approve the Focus School Initiative at the regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, January 24, 2017, to be effective July 1, 2017. The purpose of the Focus School initiative is to support schools to successfully implement the overarching academic, social-emotional, and parent engagement goals of the District, ensuring the acceleration of student achievement.

Background

The Superintendent's Cabinet met on October 13, 2016, first and foremost, to address the needs of underperforming schools, determine our definition of Focus Schools, establish the foundational metric for identifying schools, identify the possible menu of supports, and create a timeline for actions. This information was then shared with the Board of Education in a Board Study Session on November 18, 2016.

In conjunction with this, on September 8, 2016, the State Board of Education approved key elements of a new accountability system that evaluates schools and districts in 10 areas critical to student performance, including progress of English Language Arts, Math and English Language Development, and others. Final approval of all elements occurred at the January State Board Meeting.

As a result of the State Board's actions, an "evaluation rubric," which provides a tool for holding schools and districts accountable for the eight state priorities identified in the Local Control Funding Formula, was approved. Those priorities include critical areas such as student achievement, student engagement, school climate, parent engagement, and suspension rates all which are paramount in accelerating student performance.

Overarching Goals

The goals of the Focus School Initiative are as follows:

- Establish sustainable curricular, instructional and operational systems structures and practices at identified Focus Schools.
- Provide a system of supports and access to resources and information on model practices of schools performing well.
- Align the Focus Schools criteria to the new State Accountability Model to ensure actions are taken to accelerate student achievement.

Definition of a BCSD Focus School

Focus Schools are identified first and foremost due to continuously low student achievement. Through an equity based model, our goal is to accelerate student performance by providing targeted support services and leveraging resources to affect sustainable growth.

Focus School Criteria

- Low academic performance in ELA and Math
- The following may also contribute to low student achievement outcomes:
 - School Leadership Experience
 - Teacher Experience
 - Chronic Absenteeism
 - Student Mobility
 - Student Discipline
 - School Climate and Culture
 - Parent Engagement

Mitigating Factors that would exclude a school from being designated a Focus School

- Evidence that the school's current actions are aligned to BCSD's Blueprint for Academic Success.
- Evidence that the school has demonstrated progress in meeting the needs of students under BCSD's key initiatives.
- Effective school site leadership.
- The school currently has evidence of sustainable curricular, instructional and operation systems and structures in place.

Programmatic actions that will take place once a school is designated as a Focus School

- Needs Assessment and Equity Audit
- Analysis of staffing structure
- District and Site level support for professional development planning and instructional program design
- Analysis to ensure alignment to LCAP Actions

District-wide supports that may be provided to Focus Schools

- Leadership change
- High priority status for hiring staff
- Collaborate with BETA to reach agreement on mutual language regarding transfers
- Additional targeted supports may include the following:
 - Instructional Aides
 - Intervention Specialist
 - Vice Principal
 - Academic Coaches for Literacy and Math
- Monitor, adjust and evaluate ongoing systems of support and staffing

Exit Criteria

- A school will no longer be considered a Focus School when it has demonstrated accelerated performance or growth in the areas of literacy and math based on the State Accountability Rubric for three consecutive years.

Next Steps

- Notification of Principals and Staff of identified Focus Schools
- Notification of Parents and Community
- FAQ and Press Release