

**William Diamond Middle School**  
**School Improvement Plan**  
**2016 - 2017**

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## William Diamond Middle School Improvement Plan 2016-2017

### Goal 1: Improve Academic Performance for All Students

Action	Implementation Steps	Completed	On Going	No Action
Focus on Departmental Work	<p>Diamond faculty will continue to use department and content meetings (“PLCs”) to work on elements of standards-based curriculum design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· aligning curriculum to the standards</li> <li>· determining “power standards” (most essential standards)</li> <li>· designing units and lessons which are accessible to all</li> <li>· finding or creating efficient ways to assess student learning (pre-, post-, and along the way)</li> <li>· exploring ways to report students’ progress toward mastery of essential standards</li> </ul>			
Focus on Adult Learning and Professional Growth	<p>Diamond faculty will investigate additional ways to make learning accessible to all, in team meetings, content team meetings, and faculty meetings. The strategies discovered will be implemented, and outcomes shared.</p> <p>During faculty meeting time, working groups will explore strategies for particular types of learners, or general design strategies that improve accessibility.</p> <p>We will continue to explore efficient ways to uncover what our students are learning in the moment and along the way (through “on-the-spot” and formative assessments).</p>			
Focus on Integration of Technology	<p>In grade 7 we will launch a 1-1 iPad pilot. Every student in grade 7 will receive an iPad to use all year (home and school). All students entering grade 8 will also receive an iPad (a continuation of last year’s pilot).</p> <p>Clear guidelines for iPad use and responsibilities will be created and shared with students in grades 7 &amp; 8.</p> <p>Students and teachers will be given training and support, as needed.</p> <p>A working group will research # of tools and platforms students are expected to use, and how easy this is for students to manage.</p> <p>Data will be collected on the effectiveness of the iPad projects, and the areas for growth.</p>			

## William Diamond Middle School Improvement Plan 2016-2017

### Goal 1: Improve Academic Performance for All Students (continued)

Action	Implementation Steps	Completed	On Going	No Action
Focus on Refinement of Child Study & Support System	<p>“Child Study Advisory” will continue to meet. It will serve as an oversight body, and help to refine the process in general. It will help to clarify the goals/processes/teams for the faculty, and will solicit feedback to support growth in the system.</p> <p>Faculty will increasingly understand roles and goals of the Diamond child study system (including the different “tiers” and different teams).</p> <p>Team Leaders, administration and guidance will continue to explore ways to most effectively use Team Meeting times, in service of supporting student learning.</p> <p>Teams will continue to explore the most effective ways to take notes.</p> <p>Teams will increasingly take ownership of their part in the child study system: figuring out learning styles &amp; needs, actively seeking out effective strategies/approaches, implementing these strategies with fidelity, monitoring results...</p> <p>Other “child study teams” will continue to meet, and will review and revise their focus and process, as needed (Smooth Sailing Team, Triage Team, SPED Child Study Team, Ad Hoc teams...).</p> <p>Whenever possible, data will be collected and used to determine student needs and monitor progress.</p> <p>New faculty will be receive training to support understanding of system.</p> <p>Teams will continue to explore formal and informal use of <i>TAKOM (Teaching All Kinds of Minds)</i> protocols, as an aid for understanding student learning needs and identifying potentially effective strategies.</p> <p>Existing general education supports will continue to be offered (and refined, as needed):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Guided Learning</li> <li>o Math Intervention (“MegaMath”)</li> <li>o METCO Extended Day program</li> <li>o Invitational Homework Support Club</li> </ul>			

## William Diamond Middle School Improvement Plan 2016-2017

### Goal 2: Improve Social and Emotional Program Supports for All Students

Action	Implementation Steps	Completed	On Going	No Action
Focus on program planning	<p>A planning team (administration, guidance, social work and faculty) will meet over the summer and fall to lay out goals for Diamond's pro-social activities and programs.</p> <p>The planning team will then use these outlined goals to create a draft programming roadmap.</p> <p>This road map will include current and new programming (i.e. speakers from MA Aggression Reduction Coalition [MARC]; social events; community-service events; assemblies; district-wide prevention programs; student leadership training opportunities).</p> <p>We will continue to explore ways to use Diamond's formal and informal groups to enhance community, build social skills, and provide opportunities for student leadership: Student Council, Gay Straight Alliance, ICE block groups, Performing Arts (classes and after-school projects), Athletic Teams...</p>			
Focus on professional learning	<p>As part of our focus on inclusive practice, teachers will explore ways to teach <i>how</i> to collaborate effectively (partners/small groups).</p> <p>Faculty will explore ways to use ICE blocks (weekly 49-minute blocks) to build community, offer support and enrichment, and provide opportunities for student leadership.</p>			
Focus on data collection	<p>Diamond will administer the Youth Behavior Risk Survey in the spring.</p> <p>School counseling department will continue to expand its use of screening and progress-monitoring tools.</p>			

## William Diamond Middle School Improvement Plan 2016-2017

### Goal 3: Oversee and Monitor the Diamond Building Project

Action	Implementation Steps	Completed	On Going	No Action
<p>Coordinate the effective and smooth implementation of the building project at Diamond</p>	<p>Diamond administration will meet regularly with the construction team to ensure smooth progress on the construction, as well as the continued smooth functioning of the Diamond School during the construction.</p> <p>Diamond administration will coordinate with Central Office administration and Facilities personnel to plan and conduct meetings with faculty and parents to share information and gather input, as needed.</p>			

## William Diamond Middle School Improvement Plan 2016-2017

### Goal 4: Improve communication between and among all stakeholders

Action	Implementation Steps	Completed	On Going	No Action
Focus on intra-school communication	<p>Diamond's community norms will continue to guide our work together.</p> <p>Administration and Faculty Teams will continue to explore the use of technology to enhance communication (Faculty Update, notes in google, shared documents in google, team and teacher websites...).</p> <p>School leadership will continue to work on the clarity and transparency of decision-making.</p> <p>School leadership will make being a regular presence in classrooms and at meetings a priority, in order to support the work, open lines of communication, and provide more regular feedback.</p>			
Focus on home-school communication	<p>School will work on clarifying for families the different communication channels available to them, and will explore the use of home languages when sharing information.</p> <p>Faculty and administration will work consciously to improve the home-school communication, especially when needed to improve student learning.</p>			

