

ABC's of Oskaloosa Community Schools

1:1 Laptop Program

Oskaloosa High School students each have a laptop assigned to them for the school year. Project-Based Learning is the goal of the program over the next several years.

A

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

AYP is an individual school's yearly progress toward achieving the state's academic standards. The state uses the ITBS/ITED scores to determine AYP. If one grade does not score high enough from year to year, they are placed on a "watch list".

Aimsweb

Aimsweb is the Universal Screener and Progress Monitoring assessment and data system used in the district. We screen using the TEL, CBM (Reading), the TEN and MCAP and MCOMP (Math).

Annual Improvement Goals (AIG)

Annual goals are formulated based on ITBS/ITED data each year. This data and the goals created assist with the development of professional development by the district and Building Leadership Teams.

Annual Progress Report (APR)

Each year schools must provide data to show they are making progress toward academic goals. We use ITBS/ITED, data to show our progress in the area of Reading Comprehension, Math, Science and Technology integration.

Assessment

Oskaloosa Community Schools uses formative assessments and common summative assessments to determine whether students master content at a specific grade or in a specific course.

Assessment FOR Learning

Assessment FOR Learning is one of the Characteristics of Effective Instruction outlined in the Iowa Core. Its elements include: Establishing Learning Targets, using formative assessment often, student ownership of learning, etc. If you want additional information check out the Iowa Core website on the DE website.

At-Risk

Students who struggle academically, behaviorally, socially or emotionally may be at risk for failure or drop out. Many programs have been established to assist students and families so academic success is realized.

B

Building Leadership Team

Each building has a team in charge of overseeing the building level work happening made up of the Building PLC Facilitators. They meet monthly to monitor the work happening at the building level with PLC's.

C

C-Plan

The C-Plan was formerly known as the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan and other state reports they now rolled into one long application on the Department of Education website. The Annual Progress Report and the SINA application/report is also part of this state report now known as C-Plan!

Characteristics of Effective Instruction

The Iowa Core outlines the 5 elements that make quality instruction. They include: Student-Centered Classrooms, Teaching for Understanding, Assessment FOR Learning, Rigorous and Relevant Curriculum, Teaching for Learner Differences.

Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP)

The CSIP outlines the direction the school district is taking to increase academic achievement across the district. A five-year plan, it is the outline for the yearly goal setting and strategic planning of the district.

Curriculum Teams (CT's)

Curriculum Teams are formed to work on curriculum, instruction, and assessment alignment and development. They are arranged around curricular areas and have a representative from each grade level on them.

Components

Components are the specific concepts and skills students must know or be able to do on their way to mastering the Grade Level Benchmark. These are measured through formative assessments.

Common Core

The "Common Core" was adopted by Iowa and the standards and benchmarks have been incorporated into the "Iowa Core" curriculum document. Oskaloosa used both the Common Core and the Iowa Core when writing the current GLB's and Components.

D

District Advisory Committee (DAC)

The District Advisory Committee serves as the School Improvement Team. Together they review the mission and vision of the school district and develop and approve the Annual Improvement Goals for the district yearly. The group has teachers, parents, administrators, community members and students who provide input to the district.

District Leadership Team (DLT)

The District Leadership is a team of teachers and administrators committed to moving the district forward by making critical decisions in the areas of curriculum, instruction, assessment, professional development, and etc. This group of dedicated professionals meets monthly.

District PLC Facilitator Group

Each PLC has a Facilitator who leads the team by planning agendas and making sure their PLC stays engaged and working on a SMART Goal targeting student learning. This group meets five times during the school year and

monthly at their individual buildings to build leadership capacity and improve PLC performance.

E

English Language Learners (ELL)

English Language Learners are those identified at enrollment as having a language barrier to their learning. An ELL coordinator and/or teachers in the classroom provide supports for students whose primary language is not English.

F

First-Order Change

First Order Change is incremental change to a system or organization. Usually this type of change is not disruptive to the organization or the people in it. An example would be changing a bell schedule. In the long run, no one is going to be very upset or have his or her values challenged.

Fresh Start

Fresh Start is part of the Oskaloosa Community School District mentoring program. 1st and 2nd year teachers are encouraged strongly to attend the after school meetings. New, veteran teachers to the district are encouraged to attend as well.

Fountas and Pinnell

Fountas and Pinnell is the text leveling/benchmarking resource we use K-6 to determine the level at which students can read AND understand what they are reading. Teachers use this data to determine "best fit" books for independent reading or for small group instruction.

G

Gifted and Talented (GAT)

Gifted and Talented students are students identified as requiring additional challenges to maintain motivation and interest in school. Scoring high on Iowa Assessments and classroom assessments assists with the identification of these students.

Grade Level Benchmark (GLB)

A Grade Level Benchmark is the "big idea" or Learning Target for each "unit" of instruction. The GLB drives the summative assessment used to determine what students know or demonstrate in a course.

Grade Level Benchmark Grading and Reporting

Oskaloosa uses Grade Level Benchmark reporting on the report cards and in the grade book. Providing a letter code for each GLB as well as for identified Work Habits are provided to parents on each report card.

Grade Level/Department Teams or Horizontal Teams

Each teacher in the district is part of a team arranged by grade level/departments. Each team develops goals and an action plans in the spring, which defines professional development and strategy implementation during the school year. This is also your PLC.

Great Prairie Area Education Agency (GPAEA)

The Area Education Agency serving Oskaloosa is located in Ottumwa. The AEA provides support to school districts. Classes, workshops are held at the AEA and consultants provide guidance and support to the district within our schools.

H

H.E.A.R.T. Data Base

The HEART database allows teachers and administrators to have ITBS/ITED data at the tip of their fingers. An on-line database supported by the AEA, the database provides data to make academic decisions.

I

Infinite Campus

Infinite Campus is the student management program used for attendance and grading by teachers and administrators.

Iowa Assessments

The Iowa Assessments are the standardized tests used to gauge Adequate Yearly Progress for our students. The Oskaloosa Community School District administers these tests in the spring of each year.

Iowa Professional Development Model (IPDM)

The Iowa Professional Development Model is a model provided by the state of Iowa for local school districts to use when planning professional development. The key is goal setting, planning and monitoring PD along the way.

J

Job Targets

The Individual Career Development Plan is the goal for individual educators to increase student achievement in their classrooms. Teachers may choose to work on a goal as a group, or as an individual teacher. These plans must benefit students in your classroom academically in some way and be measurable. In Oskaloosa they are called "Job Targets".

L

Learning Supports - formerly "At Risk Program" Now MTSS

Oskaloosa Community School District has many programs in place to support the learning of all students. When additional support is required - academic, social, or emotional - there are supplemental and/or intensive interventions provided at the building level.

M

MAP Test

MAP is an assessment taken by students in grades 3-10. It measures growth from fall to spring in the areas of reading comprehension, math, and science. It provides a student with a RIT score. Teachers use this data to differentiate instruction.

Measures of Academic Performance (MAP)

The MAP assessment is a computer-based assessment given to grades 3-10. It measures growth from fall to spring in the areas of Reading Comprehension, Language Usage, Math and Science. Aligned to the Iowa Core standards, it provides great information on what students know and what they are ready to learn.

Mentoring

1st and 2nd year teachers to the Oskaloosa Community School District attend mentoring meetings after school throughout the school year. New teachers also have the opportunity to take part in Fresh Start - an extension of the mentoring program.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Oskaloosa Community School District is "Believe, Achieve and Create with Pride"

MTSS

Multi-Tiered System of Supports is the new name for RtI adopted by the department of education. Oskaloosa's Learning Support's Plan is aligned to the tiers of RTI. Tier 1 (Core instruction), Tier 2 (Supplemental Supports), and Tier 3 (Intensive Supports) is the structure of the supports we provide for struggling students. Meant to be proactive, the key to success is in the Tier 1 (Core instruction). Each building has a Learning Supports plan in place.

N

National Standard Score (NSS)

The Iowa Assessments use NSS to determine if a student is proficient. There is a chart which gives the NSS for each grade and each test available on the district website.

Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA)

NWEA is the company who supplies of the MAP test. They are located in Oregon. Oskaloosa takes the MAP test two times - Fall and Spring to measure academic growth.

P

Para-Educator

A Para-Educator is anyone providing supporting services to students in the classroom or in a supporting service. Oskaloosa requires Para certification for all classroom and one-on-one associates.

Parent Portal

Infinite Campus, the student management system, is available to all parents as an on-line tool to monitor student performance. The expectation for teachers is to have the grade book updated weekly. On-going communication with parents is always an expectation.

Peer Observations

Peer Observations are an important aspect of professional development. Each teacher in the district is expected to observe other colleagues and reflect on their own teaching. Check with your building on specific expectations and tools.

PLC

Professional Learning Community - Oskaloosa has early release for professional development each Wednesday. A PLC approach is used to make the learning personal and meaningful to teams. PLC's are organized by grade level and/or content area. Oskaloosa Community School District is committed to the principles of a professional learning community to ensure high quality education and success of its students. Shared Mission, Vision, Values and Goals; Collaboration; Collective Inquiry; Action Oriented teams; and Continuous Improvement are the characteristics of a Professional Learning Community. All conversations relate to student learning and what we are doing if students are NOT learning and how we know if they are learning. Adjustments to curriculum, instruction, and assessment are made a result of the collaboration.

PLC Facilitator Group - District and Building

The PLC Facilitator Group consists of one member from each PLC at each building. This group meets together several times during the school year to

assist with the PLC concept in the district. The Goal is to develop leadership capacity within teachers to promote positive professional development.

Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS)

Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) is the character education program used at the Elementary. A proactive, teaching model used to promote positive behavior and good choices by students. This is used in grades K-8.

Professional Development (PD)

Professional Development outlines learning taking place by teachers throughout the school year. Early release dates and full days are scheduled periodically throughout the school year to work on the goals set the year prior.

Project Based Learning

The Middle School and the High School focus much of their professional learning on creating lessons that are relevant, rigorous, and enhance the learning experience of students. There are many links on the staff resource page to find out more about these lessons.

R

Response to Intervention (RtI) - (See MTSS)

S

Safe Harbor

Safe Harbor is a term used by the Department of Education and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). It means we met AYP because we made significant growth from one year to the next. We did not meet the trajectory, but made enough progress to make AYP.

School in Need of Assistance (SINA)

When a school does not meet the AYP - No Child Left Behind - trajectory set for two years in a row, they have been given SINA status. The Elementary is currently in the 3rd year of SINA designation.

Second Order Change

Second Order Change is characterized by a huge shift in practice or policy. Sometimes it challenges belief systems or values we have about particular topics. An example would be moving to a new grading system such as Standards-Based Grading.

Standards

Standards are the general strands aligned with the Iowa Core Curriculum or the national content standards. Based on these standards, grade level benchmarks are created.

Standards-Based Grading

Standards-Based Grading is a system of grading using a coding system rather than traditional letter grades. Grading and feedback change as a result of a new way of reporting out grades in Standards-Based Reporting. Grades K-3 do not give letter grades, rather they provide feedback through the GLB coding system of 1-4.

Standards-Referenced Grading

Standards-Referenced Grading is a system of grading using a coding system in addition to traditional letter grades. Grading and feedback change as a result of a new way of reporting out grades in Standards-Based Reporting. Grades K-4 do not give letter grades, rather they provide feedback through the GLB coding system of 1-4.

School Board

Oskaloosa Community School District has a seven-member board of education. They meet monthly on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Check the district website for agendas and minutes.

Summer School

Both the Elementary and the Middle School have a program in place to assist struggling learners. The Elementary is focused on reading for the Early Literacy Initiative (ELI) and the Middle School focuses on incoming 6th graders to help with transitions. They focus on both Reading and Math.

V

Vertical Teams

Vertical Teams are teams in place at each building focused on specific building issues. Vertical Teams meet once per month on a Wednesday. Check with your individual building for Vertical Teams available.

Vision

The vision of the Oskaloosa Community School District is "Engaging ALL students to embrace the power of learning".

W

Watch List

When a building has failed to meet the No Child Left Behind trajectory for AYP for one year, they are put on Watch List status. They have one year to meet the trajectory and either are taken off of the list or promoted to SINA status.

Webster

The Webster Building is used for the Career Academy (college courses) as well as houses Head Start. Webster is a former elementary building located on 7th street.

Wiki

There are several Wiki sites available with information - one for Curriculum Teams and one for DLT. Go to the main web page and click on <Curriculum and Instruction> to locate them.

Work Habits

Work Habits have been identified at each grade band. Work Habits are recognized behaviors contributing to the overall performance of a student. An example of a work habit is "Completes/turns in work on time".