



FSD145

Freeport School District

Our Mission:

In partnership with students, family and community, we educate every student for the challenges of today and the opportunities of tomorrow through the continuous pursuit of excellence.

**Freeport School District 145
2019-2020**

Key Priorities and Professional Learning Opportunities

Department of Curriculum and Instruction

Message from the Department of Curriculum and Instruction

The goals for 2019-20 will be to continue to monitor, adjust, and sustain the new curriculums, focus on differentiated instruction, refine the professional learning community culture, delve deeper into the continuous school improvement process with a focus on closing the achievement gap, implement the freshman career academy model, and continue to infuse innovative teaching and learning practices into instruction.

We will also continue to focus on aligning and delving deeper into all elements of the instructional system holistically. These elements include: research based assessments, safety nets, high quality instruction, instructional materials, curriculum frameworks, technology, and the implementation of the Illinois State Standards. Alignment of these elements will continue to solidify the critical foundation for future student learning across all subject areas.

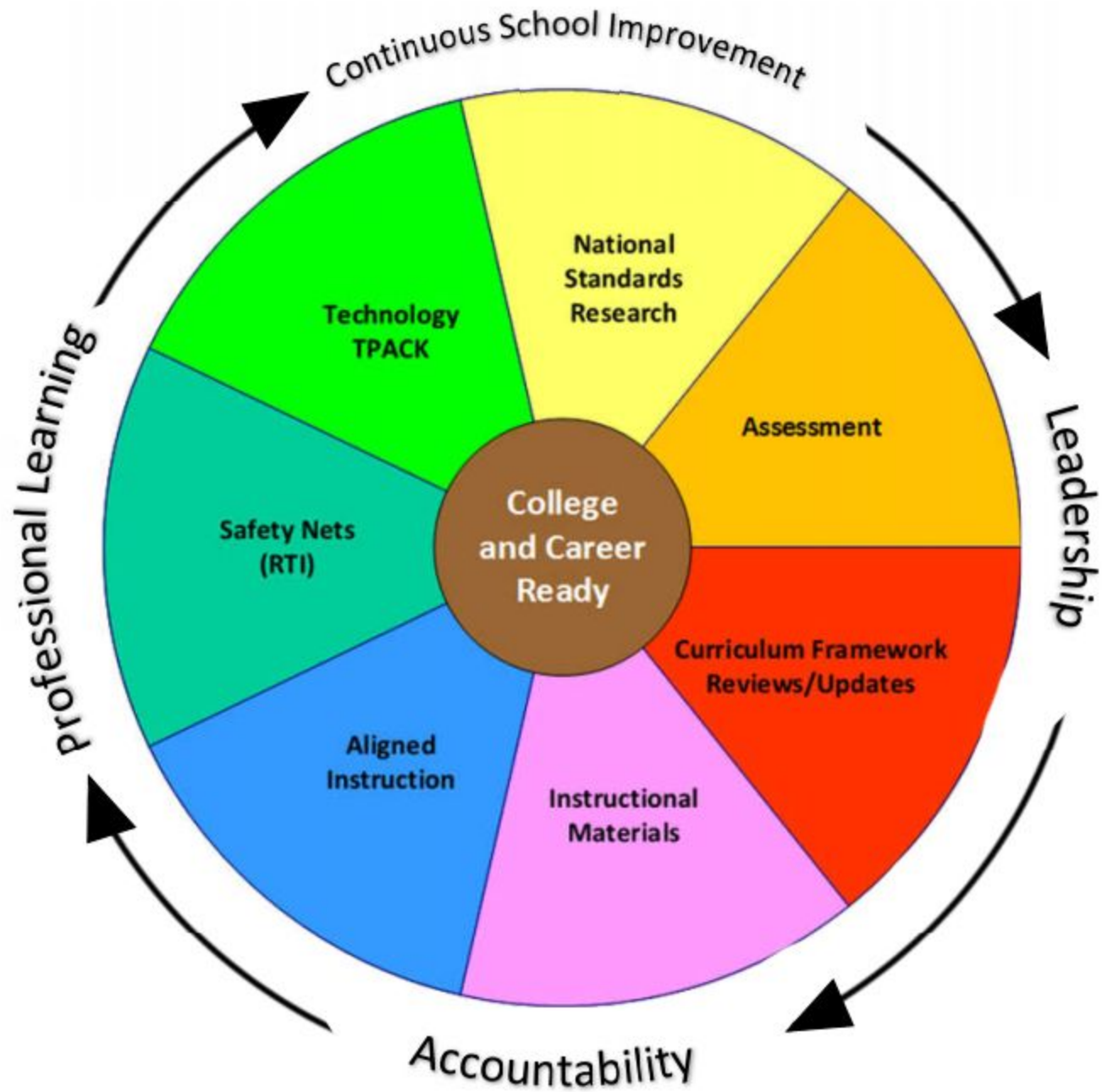
During the 2019-20 academic school year, the only content areas that are scheduled to be reviewed are Physical Education and Music according to the district's curriculum review timeline cycle. All other K-12 subject areas have been reviewed and we will continue to implement, monitor, adjust, and sustain. Due to the roll out of the Illinois ESSA Plan, we will continue to partner with our Illinois Empower Learning Partners (Urban Learning and Leadership Center and ROE) on School Improvement Efforts.

Lastly, we will continue to provide the Board of Education, parents and community with regular updates regarding our instructional programs, curriculum, and assessment efforts.

Please see the descriptions of the areas of focus for 2019-20.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Duane R. Meighan, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction



District Assessment

Freeport School district is committed to establishing and maintaining a research based, consistent, reliable and valid assessment system. Assessments help teachers make important decisions about student needs, measure student growth and help leaders evaluate the effectiveness of curriculums and programs. The primary focus of assessments for 2019-20 will be the continued support of NWEA MAP for Math and Reading with an emphasis on student growth, specifically on the subgroups. An assessment calendar will be published annually containing all assessments required by the district or state. Freeport School District strives to ensure that assessments are consistent across all of our schools and that staff members are accountable to upholding the district's assessment philosophy.

High School Math

College Preparatory Mathematics was implemented in 2016-2017 in middle school and high school. New math teachers will receive professional learning to build capacity of all teachers to confidently teach the mathematical content, plan purposeful lessons, assess understanding and give effective feedback to students. College Preparatory Mathematics instructional coaches will come into our classrooms to provide critical feedback and support to teachers. New statistics books will be purchased for the 2019-2020 school year.

Elementary Math

As a result of the K-5 math curriculum review committee work in 2016-2017, Bridges in Mathematics was implemented in 2017-2018 in Grades K-5. During 2018-2019, math teachers will continue to receive ongoing professional learning to build capacity of all teachers to confidently teach the mathematical content, plan purposeful lessons, assess understanding and give effective feedback to students. Bridges Intervention Training will take place in the summer of 2019 to train teachers to provide targeted instruction on specific skills within the RTI framework.

Technology Department Focus

The FSD145 Technology Department will continue to work on a sustainable approach to technology integration that supports the district's strategic plan. The 2019-20 school year brings the continued development of the Schoology learner management system to all FSD145 teachers and students. Schoology implementation will continue to be a high priority at Freeport High School as the one-to-one student to Chromebook device deployment continues to move forward. Elementary teachers will receive support in the use of document cameras and projectors as each K-5 classroom will be equipped with these devices. With the implementation of new curriculums, the Technology Department will also devote significant resources to support new online subscription services, ebooks, and student learning portals. The department will continue to review policies, procedures, and practices to best support evolving trends in technology and instruction. The department is committed to refining and strengthening student learning, and preparing our students to become globally competitive.

K-12 English Language Arts

Kindergarten through eighth grades will continue to use the Schoolwide Reading, Writing, and Grammar program, while the focus of professional development will be on the workshop model (Interactive Read-aloud or Mini-lesson, Independent Reading Work/Guided Practice, and Group Share) especially in the area of guided practice. Teachers will use formative and summative assessments to guide their instruction. The Foundations program and the unit summative assessments will be used in Kindergarten through third grade. The Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment program will continue to be in place for grades 1-5. Teachers will use the results of these assessments to plan for individualized and small group instruction. The English Language Arts Pearson/MyPerspectives program will be used at Freeport High School. The district continues to promote using complex text, close reading strategies, and meaningful lessons in order to increase student engagement and student ownership of their learning.

Music and Visual Arts K-12 Curriculum Review

With the change to the middle level building structure in 2018-2019, an opportunity arose for the K-12 music program to re-examine curriculum offerings and determine how best to provide a quality music program aligned to the Illinois learning standards that will incorporate 21st century skills including creativity, innovation, critical and analytical thinking, communication across media, reflection and revision, and global awareness. A committee of music teachers will continue this work through the 2019-2020 academic year and will present recommendations to the Board of Education at the end of the year.

The K-12 visual arts program is likewise aligned to Illinois learning standards that are similar in structure to the music and performing arts standards. Students in grades K-4 continue to have art class twice a week while students in grades 5-8 may select art from one of many elective courses. Freeport High School continues to offer over a dozen courses within the visual arts program.

Physical Education & Health K-12 Curriculum Review

The Freeport School District will be reviewing its curriculum for physical education and health courses across all grade levels. This review will be conducted by a committee of district PE and Health teachers who will look to continue the work of focusing on physical fitness and encouraging students to adopt a healthy lifestyle. The committee will also research improved practices in physical education, fitness monitoring, and health. Finally, the committee will review current school code requirements for physical education and health instruction and recommend any necessary changes to improve the physical education and health experiences of all of our students throughout the district.

21st Century Learning

The Freeport School District will continue to promote inquiry, project-based learning, and short focused research during the upcoming school year. Emphasis will be placed on cooperation, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity, which are critical skills needed to be successful in both college and the workforce. These 21st century skills will be embedded in all content areas across all grade levels. To better support the implementation of project-based learning, a cohort of early adopters were invited to receive in-depth training on the Gold Standard of Project-Based Learning in 2018. While this cohort receives ongoing training and support, a second cohort of early adopters will also receive this same in-depth training through the Buck Institute for Education's PBL Works national faculty. All teachers in the district are encouraged to use high-quality, standards-aligned instructional resources provided by the district as well as those developed by educators to support sustained inquiry and student-driven learning at all levels.

Elementary Social Studies

Starting in 2017, the Freeport School District Elementary Social Studies Committee engaged in a two-year study of the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework and the new Illinois Social Science Standards. The committee was charged with reviewing possible curriculum solutions to support the integration of this important content area into the elementary program. After meeting with publishers and field testing across all grades and all buildings in 2019, the committee elected to recommend the adoption of

Pearson's *myWorld Interactive* due to its direct alignment to the Illinois learning standards and the depth and breadth of resources available to support all teachers and students. These curriculum resources will begin implementation during the 2019-2020 school year as teachers adjust to the updated standards and approaches to social studies instruction.

K-12 Science

Freeport School District will continue to work on the implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and 21st Century Learning. Pearson Miller & Levine Biology 2019 Program, Walker Pearson Physics Program, and PASCO Chemistry Program will be used at Freeport High School. The Activate Learning Program called Investigating and Questioning Our World Through Science and Technology (IQWST) is used in grades 6-8. The elementary science committee is recommending a new science program to the board of education in June 2019. Three Dimensional Learning and the Conceptual Shifts in the NGSS is embedded into science instruction. Three Dimensional Learning includes Science and Engineering Practices, Crosscutting Concepts, and Disciplinary Core Ideas.

Kindergarten/Pre-K

Kindergarten teachers will continue to implement the State required Kids Individual Development Survey (KIDS) for 100% of our Kindergarten students. Students will be assessed in the Fall, Winter and Spring in 25 measures. This tool will be used for the district's report card. Teachers were provided with tablets to assist in the data collection process. Photos and videos will be uploaded into Seesaw, which will allow teachers to create digital portfolios for each student in the KIDS measures. Teachers will continue their exploration into Play-Based learning (Intentional Learning Centers) which provides a hands-on, student centered, and inquiry-based learning experience. This will support the needs of all students while implementing the district's curriculum and gathering authentic assessments for KIDS measures. Play-Based aligns with the preschool program, Creative Curriculum, providing a smooth transition from PreK into Kindergarten. The district will continue to provide opportunities for Preschool and Kindergarten teachers to collaborate and develop strategies that are developmentally appropriate for our youngest learners.

High School Academies

As the Freshmen enter Freeport High School in the fall of the 2019-20 school year, they will be grouped into three teams to provide mentoring and academic support. The new support system is aimed at increasing our Freshman On Track percentage, which highlights the percentage of Freshmen who pass all of their core classes their Freshman year of high school, indicating smooth progress toward graduation goals. In addition, this Freshman class will be the first class to experience wall to wall career academies to expose students to possible future careers and ensure that each student completes a pathway of courses in a field of study leading to certification or dual credit. Over the course of the 2019-20 school year and beyond, staff will participate in a number of professional learning opportunities in project based learning and block scheduling as well as teacher externships with local business partners. The transition to career academies at Freeport High School will gradually take place over the next five years as we move toward an academy model to support our students' future college and career pathway goals.

One Vision...One District

We will continue to bring districtwide grade level teams and departments together to focus on curriculum and professional learning efforts during the 2019-2020 academic school year. We will refine the professional learning community model, which will be driven by student data. This will be the second year of the new middle level reconfiguration and we will continue to monitor, evaluate and adjust. The new middle level configuration will allow for teachers to continue to collaborate in innovative and creative ways in an effort to meet the needs of all students.

Professional Development Wednesday Structure

The structure of Professional Development Wednesdays is as follows on a monthly basis:

1st Wednesday = Principal Directed (This time should be used by principals to improve use of the new unit overviews and plans, review school-wide learning/discipline data, plan interventions, develop common assessments, discuss an important article, book study, guest speaker, staff presentations of 21st Century Teaching and Learning practices, using a data analysis template driven by NWEA/MAP to differentiate instruction and to improve teaching and learning. It is recommended that this time be used for professional learning related to district curriculum initiatives)

2nd Wednesday = Teacher Directed (This time should be used for planning time relative to new curriculums, programs etc.)

3rd Wednesday = Teacher Directed

4th Wednesday = Principal Directed

***5th Wednesday** = Teacher Directed

In addition to the Professional Development Wednesday structure, the district has scheduled a variety of professional development activities related to our continuous growth and strategic plans. The schedule of professional development activities is further described below. Highlighted activities are those professional development activities that are aligned with our continuous growth plan but will not occur on a late start Wednesday.

Professional Development Schedule

2019/2020 Academic School Year

Date	Facilitator	Location	Topic
August 21, 2019	District Institute	All Schools	District Curriculum Initiatives
August 22, 2019	District Institute	All Schools	District Curriculum Initiatives
August 28, 2019	Principal Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
September 4, 2019	Principal Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
September 10, 2019	District School Improvement Day	All Schools	District Curriculum Initiatives
September 11, 2019	Teacher Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
September 18, 2019	Teacher Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
September 25, 2019	Principal Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
October 2, 2019	Principal Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
October 9, 2019	Teacher Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
October 11, 2019	District Institute	All Schools	District Curriculum Initiatives
October 16, 2019	Teacher Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
October 23, 2019	Principal Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
October 30, 2019	Teacher Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
November 6, 2019	Principal Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process

November 13, 2019	Teacher Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
November 20, 2019	Teacher Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
December 4, 2019	Principal Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
December 6, 2019	District School Improvement Day	All Schools	District Curriculum Initiatives
December 11, 2019	Teacher Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
December 18, 2019	Teacher Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
January 8, 2020	Teacher Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
January 15, 2020	Teacher Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
January 21, 2020	District Institute	All Schools	District Curriculum Initiatives
January 22, 2020	Principal Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
January 29, 2020	Teacher Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
February 5, 2020	Principal Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
February 12, 2020	Teacher Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
February 14, 2020	District School Improvement Day	All Schools	District Curriculum Initiatives
February 19, 2020	Teacher Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
February 26, 2020	Principal Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
March 4, 2020	Principal Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
March 10, 2020	District School Improvement Day	All Schools	District Curriculum Initiatives

March 11, 2020	Teacher Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
March 18, 2020	Teacher Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
April 1, 2020	Principal Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
April 8, 2020	Teacher Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
April 10, 2020	District School Improvement Day	All Schools	District Curriculum Initiatives
April 15, 2020	Teacher Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
April 22, 2020	Principal Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
April 29, 2020	Teacher Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
May 5, 2020	District School Improvement Day	All Schools	District Curriculum Initiatives
May 6, 2020	Principal Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
May 13, 2020	Teacher Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
May 20, 2020	Teacher Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
May 27, 2020	Principal Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process
June 3, 2020	Principal Directed	All Schools	Follow District Process

Department of Curriculum and Instruction

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