



Executive Summary: Blanton Elementary School

School Improvement Plan for 2017-18

Blanton Elementary School has 551 students in grades PreK to 5th, two administrators, 59 teachers, and 33 support staff members. The mission of **Blanton Elementary** is to inspire lifelong learning and to provide opportunities for students to gain knowledge, skills and develop character for success in our changing world. Blanton Elementary has met the requirements of the AdvancED Accreditation Commission and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement.

School Celebrations

A review of our most recent school achievement data has given us reasons to celebrate and build upon as a school. Those improvements include:

- 1) Our school hosted 50 administrators, teachers, and AVID facilitators from around the country to observe our AVID implementation as a “showcase” AVID Elementary.
- 2) Our school improved its FSA math learning gains of our L25% by 15 percent.
- 3) Our school improved science proficiency from 44 percent to 46 percent.
- 4) Our school reduced its total out-of-school suspensions by 80 percent.
- 5) Our school increased parent participation from 20 percent to 67 percent through the implementation of thematic AVID family workshops and utilizing student-led conferences.

Primary Goals

To accomplish our mission, Blanton Elementary has the following primary goals:

- 1) Increase Reading scores from 47% to 57% of all students reaching proficiency levels for each student subgroup;
- 2) Increase Mathematics scores from 54% to 64% of all students reaching proficiency levels for each student subgroup;
- 3) Increase Science scores from 46% to 64% of students reaching proficiency levels for each student subgroup;
- 4) Close the achievement gap in ELA between black and non-black students by 10 percent;
- 5) Reduce the number and percent of discipline incidents for each student subgroup by 25%;
- 6) Increase our number of parent involvement events that are “tied to student learning” by 50%.

Key Strategies:

The core instructional and monitoring strategies included in our action plans are:

- Purposeful planning of lessons with a focus on vocabulary development, incorporating thoughtfully prepared HOT questions, and activities that release responsibility for learning to students by providing them opportunities to grapple with challenging text, problem solving tasks, etc.
- Reviewing student work samples as part of our instructional rounds and PLCs to ensure alignment of student work to the rigor of grade level standards;
- Using research-based strategies in core instruction (e.g., 5E, Gradual Release, Text Dependent Questioning, Speaking and Listening protocols);
- Providing frequent, specific and meaningful feedback based on student effort and including next steps;
- Conducting data chats with students to support students with goal-setting based on data;
- Utilizing scales, rubrics, and learning boards aligned to a learning goal to assess and inform instruction.

Professional Development

The professional development efforts include the continued use of the Marzano Framework with an emphasis on monitoring with effective feedback, the use of our “Just in Time” coaches to train and guide teachers in differentiating and scaffolding instruction, having teachers meet in Professional Learning Communities (PLC’s) to conduct data chats regularly to review student responses and work samples to inform instruction, and implementing restorative circles and culturally relevant teaching strategies and resources as a way to build strong classroom culture and equity in the classroom and schoolwide.

Parent and Community Engagement

Parent engagement efforts are a challenge for our school as many parents work during the school day and have child care issues. As a strategy to increase parent and family participation, the school is hosting ten evening events featuring student-led conferencing (data chatting) and parent workshops to inform parents of the various ways they can contribute to their child's academic success. An optional Saturday workshop will be offered to introduce our families to the concept of Restorative Practices, and the provision of child care will be explored for some evening events. In response to input gathered from both the Title I Parent Survey and the AdvancED survey results, our School Advisory Council (SAC) meetings have been moved to 6 PM for the 2017-2018 school year.

For more information about Blanton's School Improvement Plan, please go to our website at <https://www.pcsb.org/blanton-es>