

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

February 15, 2017



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### *FOCUS AREA 1: IMPROVE ACADEMIC OUTCOMES FOR ALL STUDENTS*

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- TCS: The Mandarin Online Reading program is up and running for students and families.
- TFS: Students demonstrated an average of 0.33 years of growth in English reading in just two months as measured by the STAR reading assessment.
- TSS: After the NWEA Winter testing period, test results demonstrated that 67% of 4th grade students performed at/above average in Reading in English. The norm grade level mean RIT score is 203.6 and the TSS 4th grade level mean RIT score was 205.3.
- TIS recently held an assembly celebrating the results of our School Wide Behavior visit where we were evaluated with a score of 90--which places TIS as a top school that is considered to be using the program with fidelity!
- Special Education: The teaching staff's self-audit for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's found 100% compliance of all standards and indicators, in stark contrast to the 2014 audit.

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- Attendance is a key lever to driving higher student achievement:

**As of February 15, 2017, total students enrolled: 759 (TCS: 171; TFS: 169; TSS: 363; TIS: 57)**

YTD ADA numbers calculated using the dates 8/01/2016 - 2/15/2017.

Current YTD attendance rates by school:

- TSS: 95.38, down from January's 95.61
- TCS: 95.22, down from January's 95.37
- TFS: 94.57, down from January's 94.63
- TIS: 94.12, up slightly from January's 94.1
- District Overall: 95.07, down from January's 95.22%

Even though our attendance took a slight hit due to illness, our ADA is trending higher than was projected for this school year. Higher attendance will lead us to receive increased state aid. I am confident that we will be able to maintain levels of attendance that will lead to increased state aid.

If we examine the **Missouri 90/90 Proportional Percentage** (the Missouri standard is that 90% of the students should be in attendance 90% of the time and used in our APR accountability for SLLIS):

- TSS: 90.11, up from January's 87.67
- TCS: 90.5, up from January's 88.2
- TFS: 83.89, maintaining January's 83.89
- TIS: 83.05, down from January's 84.21

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### *FOCUS AREA 2: IMPROVE INTERNAL SYSTEMS AND STRUCTURES*

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- UMSL has approved a charter amendment for SLLIS to be configured into one K-8 school, running three different language programs, and stated in their approval letter: "We are in agreement that this change will strengthen SLLIS's academic program and streamline its organizational structure and operational functions."
- I will be submitting a Request for LEA Attendance Center Changes application to DESE next week.
- In an attempt to streamline the SLLIS re-enrollment process, all parents have received a Letter of Intent to Return for 2017-2018. This one-page form replaces any previously used (and lengthy) re-enrollment applications. We will be collecting these forms throughout the month and will use the student enrollment numbers to project staffing levels for next year. The goal is to have staffing projections by early March so as to be able to create initial Offer Letters to teachers by mid-March.
- On Friday, February 17, several Heads of School and teacher leaders from across SLLIS will receive professional development from an outside facilitator on how to use data to ensure student success.
- On March 11 and 12, a group of 25 invited stakeholders from across SLLIS will be led by an outside facilitator through the initial phases of a strategic planning process. This group will frame a new strategic plan for the next three years for SLLIS.

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### *FOCUS AREA 3: STANDARDIZE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND PRACTICES*

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- In the past three weeks, different administrative, teacher, parent stakeholder groups were convened to discuss the Title I LEA plan (recall from last month's report that SLLIS has been out of compliance for the past several school years). Heads of School also worked with parents to disseminate information about parent involvement as well as obtain compliance documentation. Documentation was submitted to DESE for Title I compliance for the 2015-2016 school year and DESE approved the submitted documents.
- Three policies are on the consent agenda tonight: Bronchodilator Policy, Anaphylaxis Policy and Fundraising Policy.
  - Once the Bronchodilator and Anaphylaxis Policies are approved, the Asthma Allergy Foundation of St. Louis will provide us free equipment for breathing treatment and

Epipens for both campuses. We will also receive standing orders for Epipens and breathing treatments.

- The Fundraising Policy clarifies permissions, practices, and procedures for school-sponsored and non-school sponsored fundraisers.
- Next month, I anticipate bringing Board governance and Board finance policies for review and approval.

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