

Bloomington (MN) Public School District

Bloomington Public Schools consists of ten elementary, 3 middle, 2 high schools, two early childhood family centers, and four learning centers. All are focused on academic excellence. Nine of the schools are National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence and another six have received Minnesota School of Excellence designations. Their distinction is due in large part to a dedicated and talented team of staff, who consistently earn state and national recognition for their efforts in educational excellence.

In 2012, Bloomington schools enrolled over 10,000 students. The district's mission is to help all learners succeed in a rapidly changing world, no matter their race, gender, learning abilities or faith. To achieve this mission, the schools are focused on helping each learner succeed. To this end, the Superintendent and his staff have begun the process of unifying and developing a comprehensive system of learning supports. As the 2013-2014 school year begins, they have hired a learning supports coordinator to implement the work.

Bloomington is guided by "Pathways to Graduation" a concept that was established and completely embraced at the district level last year. Related to this, the district has benchmarks at Pre-K, K, 3rd, 6th, 9th, and 12th grade and uses academic "readiness" scores for each. The learning supports leadership is now working on a process to expand that information to include other indicators that directly account for how well learning supports address barriers to learning and teaching at these grades.

From this perspective, the learning supports framework guides development of systematized preventive and corrective interventions that ensure that barriers that stand in the way of students reaching their benchmarks are addressed. Professional development stresses the link between Pathways and a Unified and Comprehensive System of Learning Supports. And discussions are underway to embed RtI into the broader learning supports framework.

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