



## Grant Parish School Board

P.O. Box 208  
Colfax, Louisiana 71417-0208  
Phone: 318-627-3274 • Fax: 318-627-5931  
Sheila S. Jackson, Superintendent

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Greeting Howard and Linda,

The Grant Parish school district continues our quest to build a system of Comprehensive Learning Supports that supports the diverse needs of our rural student population. As a part of our district and school-wide planning, we purposely set forth goals for improvement that center on all the aspects of student learning. As our CLS Plan states: "Grant Parish Schools believes the role of each school and the district is to promote development of the whole child and ensure equity of opportunity. This includes addressing barriers to learning by creating a comprehensive system of supports". Because "the school and community collaborate to establish resources that are fully aligned with instructional efforts, interventions and professional development", we continually work with our leadership teams to address the barriers to learning.

Last year, we had the opportunity to join with Scholastic to take part in a Learning Supports Leadership Module. Dr. Rhonda Neal-Waltman and Tavia Crumpler led our assistant principals and district leadership team in the Workshop Series: *Leaders as Catalysts for Improvement*. The intent of this work was "to enhance the AP leadership capacity as the school Learning Supports Lead [that would] positively impact the school's learning environment and student achievement." We were provided with strategies and evidence-based resources that we were able to apply in real-time. Further, these practices have allowed our APs to exemplify more effective leadership skills with regard to management and learning supports. The scope of our work with Scholastic entailed the following: "Through the leadership work, APs took a closer look at the role of discipline data in school improvement. In this initial review, data indicated that 69% of the top discipline infractions in across the district were representative of fighting, disturbing the school/habitually violates the rules, and commits any other serious offense. Though a deeper look into root cause would be beneficial, it is safe to say that the following themes emerged as challenges:

- Staff consistencies in interpretation and application of discipline policies;
- Classroom management techniques;

- Student motivation and engagement; and
- Perceptions of and engagement of families.”

This year, we are building on this work with the continued opportunity to work with Scholastic. Dr. Karen Tatum and Tavia Crumpler are leading our work with our District and Assistant Principal leadership. Along with Scholastic, we have built a yearlong plan of continued job-embedded activities tailored to our specific needs and school leader roles. This series is entitled: *The Learning Supports Pathway: Impacting Student Achievement through Positive Relationships*. “This series is designed to improve school climate/culture in Grant Parish Schools by focusing on exploring the link between student engagement with school and student achievement. This will be accomplished through a three (3) Workshop Series of professional learning that provides for interactive and participatory training to school-level teams and zone support staff.”

**Workshop #1:** Reframing Teacher-Student Relationships

**Workshop #2:** Understanding How Students Perceive the Actions of Adults

**Workshop #3:** Building Positive Relationships with All Students

Because Grant Parish realizes the CLS framework is an effective vehicle for driving leadership development that builds a culture of continuous improvement; we continue to strive to improve in all aspects of learning supports. “By modeling the implementation of this work in [our] schools, the APs will begin to build capacity among school staffs to unite the cycle of continuous improvement. However, the effectiveness of the Learning Supports framework depends on implementation to fidelity, continued capacity building, and improving the district and school culture and climate prepared to accept an environment for growth, collaboration, and communication.”

As a district, we are committed to keeping the Learning Supports work alive. Thank you for the opportunity to collaborate with you and to share our continued vision. We looked forward to our continued association with you.

Sincerely,



Sheila S. Jackson  
Superintendent