

Kit Carson School District R1 Priorities

PRIORITY #1

Student Growth

Provide both rigorous and proactive teaching of standards by using the elements of intentional design with a specific focus on helping students help themselves to achieve maximum growth.

WHY IS THIS A PRIORITY

Measures of student academic growth can give teachers a more nuanced understanding of student achievement that's useful for instruction. Academic growth happens for students even when they are below proficiency cuts. The teacher gets insight into the student's starting point and progress throughout the year so that he/she can adapt instruction accordingly. The student is encouraged and applauded for his/her achievements and given feedback on areas that remain challenging; and his/her future teachers understand his/her achievement and his/her starting point for new learning. With growth data, teachers and coordinators are able to better pinpoint whether specific instructional strategies and interventions hold promise and adjust over the course of the school year.

PRIORITY ACTION DETAILED

ACTION	WHO IS RESPONSIBLE	TIME FRAME FOR BEGINNING, IMPLEMENTING & SUSTAINING ACTION
Testing - MAPS testing will be done in the fall, winter, and spring to diagnose growth and gaps	Superintendent, Tech. Coordinator, Classroom Teachers	Beginning: Fall 2014 Ongoing: Fall 2017
Interventions - Interventions will be administered for students needing extra support	Superintendent, Classroom Teachers, SPED/GT/RTI Coordinators	Begin: Fall 2016 Ongoing: Fall 2017
Goals - Students use growth goals to develop plan on how to attain their goals.	Superintendent, Classroom Teachers, Students	Begin: Fall 2016 Ongoing: Fall 2017
Planning - Intentional design leads to standards being taught at the correct time and correct grade levels.	Superintendent, Principal, Classroom Teachers	Begin: Fall 2016 Ongoing: Fall 2017

PRIORITY #2

Establish SAFE and HEALTHY Learning Environments

a. District facilities will be designed and maintained to prevent and protect students from physical harm.

b. The Culture of the district will promote emotional and social well-being of all students.

WHY IS THIS A PRIORITY

2a. The Kit Carson School District buildings are older facilities and require daily maintenance. The building received new windows, new water heaters, and one updated bathroom in 2016. A master facility plan will include attending to the needs discovered through a thorough diagnostic of the facilities to ensure the health of our students. Attention to both the physical structures and culture (the intellectual and moral ability) of our schools is essential to ensuring the health and success of our students.

2b. A positive culture within the district will be maintained and stressed. Preventative measures to address issues like bullying, suicide, and other risky adolescent behaviors are critical. Attention to both the physical environment and culture of our district is essential to ensuring the health and success of our students.

2a. PRIORITY ACTION DETAILED

ACTION	WHO IS RESPONSIBLE	TIME FRAME FOR BEGINNING, IMPLEMENTING & SUSTAINING ACTION
Planning - Update the school with safety and health enhancements	Superintendent, Principal, DAC (District Accountability Committee)	Begin: Summer 2016 Ongoing: Fall 2017
Legal - Refine and align district emergency operations plan to statutory requirements of SB 213-124	BOE (Board of Education), Superintendent, Principal	Begin: Summer 2016 Ongoing: 2018
Partnerships - Establish partnerships with law enforcement and emergency management to create safe spaces.	Superintendent, BOE, Principal	Begin: Summer 2016 Ongoing: Fall 2017

2b. PRIORITY ACTION DETAILED

ACTION	WHO IS RESPONSIBLE	TIME FRAME FOR BEGINNING, IMPLEMENTING & SUSTAINING ACTION
Social- Preventative lessons to address social issues and risky behaviors.	Superintendent, Principal, Classroom Teachers, DAC	Begin: Fall 2017 Ongoing: Fall 2018
Partnerships- Partnerships with local and state agencies to provide guidance around bullying, suicide, and risky behaviors.	Superintendent, Principal, Counselor, Student Council	Begin: Fall 2017 Ongoing: Fall 2018

PRIORITY #3

Instruct with focus on THINKING STRATEGIES and FEEDBACK

Provide both rigorous and responsive instruction by using the elements of intentional design with a specific focus making student thinking visible and giving specific, meaningful, feedback in the learning process.

WHY IS THIS A PRIORITY

Research shows, ability and skills are not enough for students to reach potential. Students need to develop and be taught the **attitude** and **alertness to think deeply and to communicate thinking**. Thinking can be practiced. Teachers who attend to ways of asking students to demonstrate their **thinking visibly** find students who are more **engaged** and **responsible** for their learning as well as successful in **mastering content**. Paired with thinking strategies in promoting engagement and growth, is a teacher's intentional practice of **specific and timely feedback to students**. Students need much more than a final score; learners need to know what is expected, what success looks like, and what needs to be done next to move toward higher success. Feedback is the vehicle to do this. Instructional strategies address teaching strategies that focus on developing students' thinking and providing meaningful feedback. Prioritizing these two strategies will foster student **engagement, student ownership of their learning, and mastery**.

PRIORITY ACTION DETAILED

ACTION	WHO IS RESPONSIBLE	TIME FRAME FOR BEGINNING, IMPLEMENTING & SUSTAINING ACTION
Numeracy- Integrate numeracy in all classes, focusing on thinking skills involved in math	Superintendent, Classroom Teachers	Begin: Fall 2017 Ongoing: Fall 2018
Summarizing- Use summarizing strategies in all classes	Classroom Teachers	Begin: Fall 2017 Ongoing: Fall 2018
Comparing- Use compare and contrast in all classes	Classroom Teachers	Begin: Fall 2017 Ongoing: Fall 2018
Grading- Implement grading strategies that support feedback and growth mindset	Classroom Teachers, Superintendent	Begin: Fall 2017 Ongoing: Fall 2018
Questioning- Use DOK (Depth of Knowledge) questioning techniques that are level 3 and 4	Superintendent, Classroom Teachers	Begin: Fall 2017 Ongoing: Fall 2018
Responses- Shift from fill in the blank and short response questions to full sentences and thoughtful complete answers	Classroom Teachers	Begin: Fall 2017 Ongoing: Fall 2018

PRIORITY #4

Build Professional Communities and Collaboratives

Establish and sustain systems for teachers and staff to strengthen delivery of instruction through on-going conversation and critique of practice and develop partnerships with the community.

WHY IS THIS A PRIORITY

Professional and Community Collaboratives are a necessary focus for the district. Based on teacher evaluations, Kit Carson School District teachers perform at high levels. The district has been successful in hiring and retaining qualified and powerful teachers. Written curriculum and assessments are being established to coordinate instruction. Through both **observation and teacher feedback data**, there is an awareness among staff of the state standards along with agreed upon instructional practices. Consistent and high levels of implementation of the agreed upon curriculum, assessments, and instructional practices are needed to elevate positive impacts for student success. Opportunities remain for strong connections between instruction and mindsets at all levels in the district. While partnerships between local health agencies, businesses, youth and family care non-profits, and law enforcement are in place, **informal feedback** indicates intentional efforts are needed to further establish these partnerships to promote student success.

PRIORITY ACTION DETAILED

ACTION	WHO IS RESPONSIBLE	TIME FRAME FOR BEGINNING, IMPLEMENTING & SUSTAINING ACTION
Elementary Collaboration- Share instruction and assessment between PK and K-5	PK-5 teachers with support of BOE and Superintendent	Beginning: Fall 2017 Ongoing: Fall 2018
Secondary Collaboration- Establish time for department and cross-department (SPED and general) planning	BOE, Superintendent	Beginning: Fall 2017 Ongoing: Fall 2018
Relationships- Establish relationships with the Kit Carson School District community by communication, vision, and being transparent with decisions	BOE, Superintendent, Classroom Teachers, DAC	Beginning: Fall 2017 Ongoing: Fall 2018
Professional Development- Teachers will continue to actively seek and participate in professional development that leads to student growth	BOE, Superintendent, Classroom Teachers	Beginning: Fall 2016 Ongoing: Fall 2017