

Terrell County Independent School District Sanderson Schools 2021-2022

Instructional Plan – Closing Gaps & Addressing Academic Needs

Summary of Instructional Needs

After careful review of the 2020-2021 STAAR data, iStation data, Renaissance Star Early Literacy data, teacher progress monitoring, and SLO's, a committee of staff and parents identified the following instructional needs for the district:

- Early Literacy
- Early Education
- Secondary ELAR

Solutions/Support to Address the Instructional Needs

The committee discussed the current instructional set-up of the district and the curriculum and resources currently being utilized by the district. The following instructional solutions/supports/resources were identified to support the academic growth of the students. These supports are intended to support the instructional needs identified and to help close academic gaps that are evident due to COVID and/or other factors.

- Instructional Teacher Assistant for PreK/Kindergarten
 - The PreK and Kindergarten classroom is a combined class. With an instructional assistant, the teacher can target the instructional needs of specific groups of students with help from the teacher assistant. This will allow the teacher to plan accordingly and target the specific needs of each grade level within the classroom
- Hire a 1st Grade Teacher
 - The 1st and 2nd grade levels have been a combined classroom for over 7 years. When this configuration was put into place, it worked for the budget and because of low enrollment within these grade levels. After analyzing several years of data, it has been determined that this combination is not academically beneficial to the students. The 1st and 2nd grade expectations are very different and because of the different needs that each of these grade levels has, over the last several years, 3rd grade students have not been academically ready for 3rd grade. This has not been a teacher issue, but an organizational issue. The teachers have attempted to target the needs of all students within the grade levels; however, the different standards for both grade levels and the academic functioning levels of these two grade levels have made it difficult for the teacher to target all the students' academic needs at the level expected. The district will hire a first-grade teacher to separate the grade levels, allowing for the appropriate academic foundational development of these students before entering 3rd grade.

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- Guided Reading
 - Guided reading is imperative for the appropriate reading development for early literacy. The current guided reading system used by the elementary teachers has been Reading A-Z. While they will continue to use this program, to use it effectively, paper costs and colored printing costs must be considered. These two budgets must be increased to meet this need.
 - In addition to Reading A-Z, the district, with the assistance from the elementary teachers, the district will purchase guided reading libraries that support the guided reading needs at the elementary level.
- Computer-based intervention programs
 - Different computer-based intervention programs will be researched and purchased for the district. While the district utilizes different programs, the committee identified that some changes in some of the programs are necessary. While the students enjoy most of the programs that they currently use, a need to change it up, find programs that will target different content areas and needs was identified. The district, with feedback from teachers, students, and stakeholders will identify additional and/or new computer-based programs to support the academic gaps identified.
- Computer – Technology upgrades for students
 - With the updated computer-based programs, the technologist and teachers have identified the need for some of the technology hardware to be updated for the students. Some of the programs are not adequately working due to the age of chromebooks or other products the students use. With the district will utilize the hardware inventory to identify which products must be updated/replaced first.
- Mental Health
 - Mental health is a need in the district. Because Sanderson Schools is rural, it is difficult to provide students with support from surrounding areas. The district will purchase some mental health programs to use with the students and the district will bring in organizations to support students with mental health awareness and support.
- Extended School Year and Tutorials
 - Tutorials will be provided for students throughout the year. Teachers will continue to develop a schedule that works to support their students' academic needs. In December and January, the committee of staff and parents will meet to discuss the extended school year option and whether it would benefit the students, according to the first semester data.

This instructional plan is a working document and will change according to student needs. Needs that are identified will be addressed through teacher support and with various resources provided by the district.

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