



Academy for Urban School Leadership
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Comprehensive Instructional Reform

AUSL schools use a rigorous, standards-based curriculum, with frequent formative and summative assessments. AUSL's K-12 Alignment team leads our coaches and teachers to develop common, network-wide standards-based pacing guides, assessment tools, and assessment calendars. Teachers in all AUSL schools receive training and coaching support to use the networks resources to ensure that their planning and instruction are informed by standards and by frequent feedback about progress of each student. When necessary, we utilize small group pullouts during class to remediate student skills or introduce new topics. Many of our schools supplementary reading programs such as Read 180 and Compass Learning as a tier 2 intervention for students.

AUSL uses clear, highly detailed checklists for how network schools and classrooms should look, and clarity on key policies, processes, and routines (e.g., entry/exit procedures, uniforms, silent and orderly lines in the hallways during class transitions, etc.) To ensure accountability, AUSL's central office team conducts fall and spring "audits" of every school providing feedback to principals, and principals visit every classroom to provide feedback to teachers, regarding whether network expectations are being met. We also encourage our school leaders to create hallway banners and bulletin board displays to communicate expectations, build school spirit, and celebrate success. Beginning with summer professional development, teachers and all school staff are expected to be consistent, positive, and respectful with students, and to expect such behavior in return.

Action Against Adversity is part of AUSL's framework because the poorest-performing schools are almost always in high-poverty, high-mobility communities. As part of the vision for the turnaround, leaders must embrace the need for the school to provide and coordinate the extra supports that poor and sometimes homeless children need, such as:

- Well-organized, non-bureaucratic procedures for welcoming and quickly enrolling new students throughout the school year
- School uniform policy, including a supply of "loaner" uniforms so kids who show up without theirs will not miss school time
- Supplemental services from nearby social service providers
- Donated school supplies

After-school arts and sports programs are another AUSL "Action Against Adversity" strategy. Parents in AUSL school communities consistently ask for programming to keep their children supervised and learning after the school day. Also, after-school arts and sports activities can inspire and develop students with different talents, and motivate them to come to school and behave well in order to keep the privilege of participating.

Reference: North Chicago Community High School
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