BOOSTING SCHOOL TO HOME COMMUNICATIONS: PROVEN STRATEGIES AND TACTICS

http://vimeo.com/107740218
Meet Jill Gildea and Read Her Interview

Fremont School District 79 Superintendent, Dr. Jill Gildea, was drawn to the large rural fringe district in southwest Lake County, Fremont Township in Illinois due to its beautiful 100 acres of natural forest preserve, its potential for future growth and its focus on whole child development. Four years later, she describes the district as student-centered and future-focused. Jill says, “I’m proud of the accomplishments of an amazing team of educators and an involved and innovative community.”

Read more...
“Fremont School District 79 will serve its community by providing an exemplary education focused on whole-child development, collaboration and fiscal responsibility.”

Creating the environment that celebrates collaborative practices as central to its vision promotes home-school connections!
CORE BELIEFS

• Parents and school staff should be equal partners in children’s learning.

• The responsibility for building partnerships between schools and home rests primarily with school staff, especially school leaders.

• Schools are a reflection of the communities they serve.
RESEARCH

• “A New Wave of Evidence,” by Dr. Karen Mapp (Harvard Graduate School of Education) is an expert in school, family, and community partnerships.

FINDINGS

• Students with involved parents are more likely to:
  • Earn higher grades and test scores
  • Be promoted, pass their courses, and earn credits
  • Attend school regularly
  • Have better social skills and improved behavior
  • Attend school regularly
  • Graduate and go on to post secondary education
FREMONT FINDINGS...

- Average ACT score of students attending Stevenson High School: 26.5
- Students attending post secondary education: 94%
- Scholarship awards in excess of $5,000,000 per year for Mundelein High School
HOW DOES THAT HAPPEN?

- CHARACTERISTICS OF HIGH PERFORMING SCHOOLS
- Alignment of strategies, processes and activities to the Vision/Mission
- Desire to improve
- Commitment to learning
- Use of data to measure/improve performance
- Concern for people
  - Home/School Partnership
FOUR STRATEGIES

1. Proactive programs to foster positive interactions with parents.
2. Offer opportunities to become involved.
3. Inform parents of classroom management and instructional activities.
4. Make accommodations to meet the needs of families of diverse backgrounds.
Send brief & timely emails.

Give good news!

Post assignments online.

Host back-to-school nights.

Ask for feedback & support.

KEEP PARENTS IN THE LOOP!
WHAT WORKS

- Summer e-newsletter
- Opening the year with Meet the Teacher/Supply Drop-Off
  - Informal interaction and engagement before the year even starts
- Back to School Night
- Family Nights Focused on Reading, Science, Tech
- Partnership Events such as Fitness Festival
INDICATOR OF SUCCESS

80 Fremont Jr High/\n
Most Implementation

1 (25%)
SURVEYS
TIPS & TACTICS

Current in Best Practice Strategies – Moving to Student-Directed

Success in a 21st Century Learning Environment

Students from middle school present how they are incorporating iPads, Blogging, Doc Cams, and Apple TV for Board of Education Presentation!
Welcome to the Fremont District 79 Public Quality Dashboard

In the spirit of continuous quality improvement, Fremont District 79 maintains transparent, open communication about the quality of its schools through a public quality dashboard. As a user of the dashboard, you have access to student achievement, financial and other data that is important to you as a community member. Increasing academic achievement and maintaining fiscal responsibility are our top priorities as a school district. This dashboard is intended to provide a comprehensive, customized assessment of our progress toward that goal.

How to use this Dashboard

Under each section, you can view performance data related to the specific areas of student achievement, human resources, and finance & operations. To view quality data for each section, just click on one of the indicators below it. You'll then see a series of charts and graphs which allow you to observe and compare relevant data. Each metric contains current and historical data.

In some cases, you will also be able to view additional details or compare Fremont District 79’s performance to national and state benchmarks or other comparison data where available. A text explanation is included with each chart to help you interpret what the data means.

Indicator Key

Included with each dashboard indicator and text explanation is a color-coded bullet indicating the trend in performance. Please use the key at left to interpret each metric.
In January 2013, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) announced that it would change the cut scores (grading scale) for the 2013 Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) to better align the ISAT with the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) and the Common Core State Standards. At its January 28 meeting, the District 102 Board of Education was presented with a projection of how these new cut scores would affect ISAT results by applying them to the 2012 results. (Based on this projection, D102 ISAT proficiency in Reading and Mathematics was expected to drop from 94% to 83%.) The State projected that scores across Illinois would drop from the 2012 average of 82% to 60% - not due to changes in instruction or student achievement, but simply as a result of “raising the bar” on cut scores. Based on the release of 2013 preliminary data, overall results for students “meeting” and “exceeding” learning standards in Reading and Mathematics indicate a drop to approximately 83%. D102 will stay the course in providing rigorous and engaging learning opportunities for all students to attain and demonstrate mastery.

(*Please note that the 2013 ISAT scores displayed are based on preliminary data released from the ISBE. The final reports will be available sometime early fall, and student reports will be sent home shortly thereafter.)
CHALLENGES

• # of Clicks…
• 90-7-3…
• Incorporating Visuals
• Gaining Media’s Positive Interest
• Personalized, Targeted Communications
• Meaningful Interaction
  • Student-Centered
  • Positive
  • Enhances Home-School Partnership
"We need to improve morale around here. For starters, let’s remove those screensaver photos of the Titanic."
FACT...

• **51%** of supervisors say that they recognize employees who do a good job

• **17%** of employees at that same organization report that their supervisors do well at recognizing them
Ice cream secrets

Fremont Elementary School second-graders Kaelyn Pearson, left, and Angelina Lagori taste ice cream they made at school Thursday. Kids made ice cream as part of a science unit called Secret Formulas.
Students learn current events to
## SUCCESS STORIES

### Your 5 Most Recent Posts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Published</th>
<th>Post</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Targeting</th>
<th>Reach</th>
<th>Engagement</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07/18/2014</td>
<td>F79 Supt. Jill Gildea was named a 2014 national superintendent of the year finalist. <a href="http://ow.ly/zj0D">http://ow.ly/zj0D</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>782</td>
<td>110</td>
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<tr>
<td>06/24/2014</td>
<td>Some 750 students splashed in the water, dissected every kind of sea creature, created original artwork,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>744</td>
<td>2K</td>
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<tr>
<td>06/13/2014</td>
<td>F79 Celebrates Diversity: <a href="https://vimeo.com/97723263">https://vimeo.com/97723263</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>256</td>
<td>7</td>
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### BEST PRACTICES

**Fremont School District 79**

**Priority Projects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Information System</td>
<td>SEL Curriculum (Calm Classroom, Diversity Training)</td>
<td>Technology Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Course Assignments</td>
<td>World Language</td>
<td>Standards-Based Grading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiscal Stability – Shared Services Study</td>
<td>Teacher Evaluation</td>
<td>Differentiated P.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collective Bargaining</strong></td>
<td>Facility Plan</td>
<td>Curriculum Materials/Resource Cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCSS</td>
<td>Dashboard Reports</td>
<td>Campus Safety – Cameras, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mandated Topics – Electronic Delivery?</td>
<td></td>
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RECOGNIZE SUCCESSES
PARENT FOCUS GROUPS
HOME SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

• Teacher Websites
• Learning Management System!
• eBlast
• Virtual Backpack
• Specific Targeted Communication Campaign
  • Multimedia Monday
  • Technology Tuesday
  • Wild about Learning Wednesdays
  • Throwback Thursday
  • Fun Event Friday
WEBSITE
SOCIAL MEDIA
RECOGNIZING FRAMEWORK

- Develop a Family Engagement System
- Enhance Communication
- Building a Welcoming and Supportive Environment
- Include Parents in Decision Making
- Essential Elements of the Continuous School Improvement Process
State Performance

The following graph shows the overall percentage of Fremont D79 state tests scores categorized as meeting or exceeding Illinois state standards.

(METRIC: % ISAT MEETS OR EXCEEDS STATE STANDARDS)
QUICK POLLS

School Rating
The following graph shows the percent of parents rating their child's school as "Excellent" or "Good".

(METRIC: PERCENT PARENTSANSWERING "EXCELLENT" OR "GOOD")
TELEPHONE AND FACE/FACE
1. Districts/schools develop a family engagement system that cultivates and empowers adults to jointly support student growth, address any barriers to learning, and ensure college and career readiness.

2. District and school personnel foster a welcoming environment for families that is responsive to student and family needs.

3. District and school personnel engage in ongoing and meaningful two-way-exchanges of information with families to support student learning and healthy
CHECKLIST

- Welcoming Environment
- Policies and Practices
- Home-School Communication
  - Authentic Engagement
  - Prompt Response Times
RESOURCES

• Checklist for Schools – Making your Family-Community Partnership Work

• Edutopia.org – Parent Leadership Education Resources
  http://www.edutopia.org/parent-leadership-education-resources

• A Family Friendly School Walkthrough Checklist –
  http://www.cesdp.nmhu.edu/toolkit/docs/pdfs/improving-communication/A%20Family%20Friendly%20Schools%20Walkthrough%20Checklist%202014.pdf
• file://localhost/<iframe src="::player.vimeo.com:video:107740218" width="500" height="281" frameborder="0" webkitallowfullscreen mozallowfullscreen allowfullscreen></iframe> <p><a href="http://::vimeo.com:107740218">Fremont District 79 - Where Communication</a>