



Dear Madison Community,

We are excited to present our second quarterly review of progress for the 2014-15 school year.

Our vision as a district is that every school will be a thriving school that prepares every student for college, career and community. Across the district, our team has been incredibly focused on bringing this vision to life.

Our strategy, as captured in our strategic framework, is aimed at eliminating the gaps in opportunity that lead to disparities in achievement. We want to be a model public school district, one that demonstrates what it looks like to serve all students and families well. We believe that our public schools are key to our community's success.



As a district, we conduct a deep review of progress once a quarter and report on our progress publicly. This process provides a space for us – school based leadership teams, central office, Board of Education and community – to examine both implementation and outcomes, to identify strengths and challenges, to collaboratively problem-solve and make adjustments where needed. We are very excited about the progress that we've made since our first quarter review.

As you review our progress in this second quarter, I hope you'll keep in mind the three core values that we believe are crucial to our success:

- **Sustained Focus:** We must be incredibly focused on the day-to-day work of teaching and learning.
- **Schools at the Center:** Teachers, principals and their communities know their students best and have the will and skill to be successful.
- **Excellence and Equity:** We must hold all students and educators to high expectations and provide the support they need to succeed.

Thank you for taking the time to review our progress. You can learn more at [www.mmsd.org/quarterly-review](http://www.mmsd.org/quarterly-review).

Sincerely,

Jennifer Cheatham  
Superintendent

## School Improvement Plans

Central to our theory of change is the school improvement planning process which establishes the disciplined way of working necessary for success in each of our schools.

This quarter, schools continued to move forward on execution of their plans. Our schools are more consistently observing classroom instruction to inform implementation of their School Improvement Plans. Just this quarter, 43 schools used a tool aligned to our vision of great teaching and the Common Core State Standards during visits to classrooms to help guide professional development planning.

We've also strengthened our approach to providing targeted school support from central office aligned to school plans. Literacy continued to be the top-requested support category, and through our new approach, the district's Curriculum and Instruction Department provided customized support to match the needs of individual schools.

### Family Engagement

Dr. Karen Mapp has worked with districts around the country on family engagement and will provide guidance and expertise as schools refine strategies for next year's school improvement plans.

While family engagement strategies are improving, schools continue to need help refining those strategies. As a result, next month principals, school staff and parent leaders will take part in district-wide professional development with a national expert on family engagement to strengthen current strategies and prepare for the 15-16 school year.

All School Improvement Plans are posted on the district's website at [www.mmsd.org/sip](http://www.mmsd.org/sip).

## Common Learning

While schools stay focused on their unique plans, common learning across the district continues, anchored to a stronger definition of what great teaching in Madison looks like. Feedback from staff shows consistently high marks this quarter.

The Great Teaching Framework, centered around culturally and linguistically responsive practices, has framed professional development across the district and has guided collaboration in teacher teams.

While schools continue to build systems and supports for teacher teams, the focus during teacher team time has been on weekly planning using the Great Teaching cycle.

### Race and Equity

Across the district, all strands of professional development include explicit discussion and study around race and equity, and the implication for both School Improvement Plans and support from Central Office.



# Five Priority Areas

The work of central office is focused on a clear set of priorities aimed at providing the infrastructure, tools and resources that schools need and removing institutional barriers that stand in our way. This quarter, we've made progress in each of our five priority areas.

## Major Accomplishments This Quarter

Priority Areas	Accomplishments
 <p><b>Coherent Instruction</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Units of instruction in both English Language Arts and Spanish Language Arts and aligned performance assessments designed and launched for quarter two and three</li> <li>• First draft of the Blueprint for an arts rich school completed as part of Any Given Child partnership with city and Overture Center</li> <li>• Enhanced communication, high school support, intervention, and professional development provided for Behavior Education Plan </li> <li>• Re-design of summer school plan completed to expand access through increased enrollment and attendance</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Personalized Pathways</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redesign and alignment of English 9 and Algebra 1 completed to ensure consistency across high schools</li> <li>• Completed a comprehensive asset mapping review that outlines the region's resources to aid implementation of high school career pathways</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Family Engagement and Community Partnerships</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First phase of Parent Academy launched with new course offerings for this summer</li> <li>• Academic tutoring framework on track to be completed in March to ensure that all tutoring services provided to students are aligned to best practice and support student learning</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Thriving Workforce</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher and principal evaluation system on track at mid-year check point</li> <li>• Teacher screening and selection process on track to be launched for this hiring season</li> <li>• Embedding culturally and linguistically responsive practices into all three strands of induction partnership with UW Madison for new teachers, instructional coaches and principals</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Accountability</b></p> <p><b>Supporting the Framework:</b> Five-year Technology Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive intervention toolkit completed and provided to schools</li> <li>• Request for bids launched for student devices and classroom learning spaces</li> <li>• Planning and professional development on track for group one schools</li> <li>• Application process on track for group two schools</li> </ul>

See a complete inventory of progress on the next steps of our strategic framework at [www.mmsd.org/quarterly-review](http://www.mmsd.org/quarterly-review).

### Behavior Education Plan

Behavior Education Plan: Every quarter, the board will conduct a review of the plan in order to surface strengths and challenges, problem-solve and make adjustments when needed. For more information on the plan and the second quarter review visit [www.mmsd.org/behavior-education-plan](http://www.mmsd.org/behavior-education-plan).

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February 11, 2015

Does your school need more space? Is it in need of renovations?  
Find out tonight!

Does your school need more learning space, and is it in need of renovations? Is it accessible? Do you know the average age of the district's 45-plus buildings?

**School Referendum 101**  
A Plan for Improving Madison School Buildings

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- Space
- Accessibility
- Immediate Physical Plant Concerns

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**STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

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