



Date: Jan 14, 2019

From: Adam Larsen, Assistant Superintendent

To: Board of Education

Cc: Thomas Mahoney, Superintendent

Re: January 2019 Board Report

5Essentials Survey

We are participating in 5Essentials Survey again in 2018-2019. This web-based climate and school characteristics survey was intended as a way for school leaders to gather information about staff, student, and community perceptions. It was first announced as an ISBE project in the spring of 2013. Some of the initial promises have not come through, especially in terms of what information is being shared with school districts, but the survey has been conducted each year since it was launched.

From the press kit, here is how the 5Essentials survey is being introduced to parent respondents:

"Beginning November 15, students and teachers across Illinois will have an opportunity to participate in the seventh annual statewide Illinois 5Essentials Survey. This survey is designed to generate a detailed picture of the inner workings of your child's school. As a parent, this opportunity will allow you to share your thoughts on the important elements of school effectiveness in a survey about your child's school."

Prior research in more than 400 schools has shown that schools that were strong on at least three of these "5Essential" indicators were 10 times more likely to improve student learning gains in math and reading than those that were weak on three or more Essentials."

All three schools are engaging teachers, students, and parents to complete this survey. We are at or near the minimum threshold of parent respondents in each building, which would be our first time accomplishing this level of participation. This would permit the University of Chicago, which administers the survey, to furnish summary parent data for us to analyze. In the past, we have only had teacher and student data available to us.

A detailed report on our results will be presented when they are available.



Learning Management Systems Update

We continue to study the learning management system (LMS) space so we can be ready to make a selection and purchase when we have enough student devices to go one-to-one. There are many options available, but only a small number will be viable solutions, given the systems with which it will need to integrate. These include our student information system (PowerSchool), our student devices (Chromebooks), our network infrastructure (Windows servers), and our student e-mail system (G Suite).

Remember that the goals of choosing and implementation an LMS are to be able to push content and learning tasks to students through their devices, collect assessment data from students, and provide feedback to students about their learning. The best implementations of LMSes happen in schools where this technology is woven into curricular and instructional decisions, rather than be seen as an additional burden for teachers. Additionally, we would want to have some kind of centralized repository that would help us better manage the instructional units that are currently being developed by teachers across the district.

We have had a few demonstrations of these solutions to gather some initial data on integration quality as well as cost. We will likely have larger-scale demonstrations of these products in May so a decision can be made early in the 2019-2020 school year. This would allow us to be able to pilot the LMS with a small group of teachers in early 2020 and fully implement the system in the fall of 2020. A brief summary of these demonstrations follows:

Vendor	Cost	Notes
ItsLearning	About \$5/student annually. Implementation and integration costs are extra	Very little integration with PowerSchool. Strong standards and curriculum management. Would be a good repository for all of the curriculum and unit plans we are developing.
Canvas	\$7/student annually. \$4,500 for implementation and training.	Tight integration with PowerSchool. Strong user community.
Schoology	\$10/student annually. \$2,500 for implementation and training.	Tight integration with PowerSchool. Strong user community.
PowerSchool Learning and Assessment	\$10/student annually. \$10,000 for implementation and training.	Tightest integration with PowerSchool SIS. Immediate grade passback from learning platform to gradebook.



Google Classroom Training

Most of the learning management systems on the market have some kind of integration with Google Classroom, which is a component inside the larger G Suite. This is the web-based office systems software that businesses and school use to create and share documents, including student homework. A positive aspect of this integration is that we can begin to train teachers and students in Classroom even before we select and implement a learning management system.

We found a training vendor called MobileMind that has developed courses that prepare users to sit for the Google Certification tests. They provide a number of different options, including in-person workshops, self-guided online learning, and simple videos to offer tips and tricks. We are looking at conducting this training in the late spring in anticipation of the learning management system adoption.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Adam P. Larsen'.

Adam P. Larsen
Assistant Superintendent
Oregon CUSD #220