

April 2016

Dear third and fourth grade teams,

The purpose of this letter is to share with you the decision around looping in the third and fourth grades for the 2016-2017 school year. Each time we discuss this topic, we can't help but enjoy your energy and desire to move forward with this.

The chart that was generated and shared during our looping discussion of Monday, March 21, clearly highlights the many positive attributes that looping can offer students, families and teachers. Likewise, the list of deltas outlines potential areas of concern, aspects to consider, and things that we can tighten-up all within the parameters of our current systems.

Moving forward with looping at BTMES for our general education teachers is simply not in the cards for the 2016-2017 school year due to timing. We want to be able to best support our teachers regarding curricular needs, homework needs, behavioral needs, etc. from the very beginning of the year throughout its entirety. Most importantly, we want to be sure that our general education teachers are supported and comfortable with all components of the third and fourth grades. I ask that next year the third and fourth grades teaching teams fine-tune the systems that are currently in place for each grade-level team. For example: What are the third and fourth grade-level homework and behavior expectations? What are the consequences?

Please know that we would like to have this conversation next year regarding the concepts and implementation of looping at BT. We have much support from our curriculum specialists, Director of CIA and Superintendent Pandolfo, to move forward with looping. They understand that the timing for BTMES to move forward with looping may not be the ideal time for next year, given the fact that we're moving forward with a full roll-out of PBIS, still have a few aspects to fine-tune regarding our systems and the fact that we won't have our full third and fourth grade general education staff to experience this from the beginning.

If the third and fourth grade special education staff is still interested in looping, please let Julia know so that this topic can be added to the next Team I meeting agenda regarding service delivery for the 2016-2017 school year.

Thank you again for engaging in these important conversations. We look forward to continuing this dialogue next year.

Respectfully,

Jen and Julia