

## **Strategic Plan Glossary of Terms**

**Vertical articulation** (page 5) – Vertical articulation refers to the deliberate alignment and coordination of curriculum, instruction, and assessment across different grade levels within a subject area or academic program

**Professional Learning Communities** (page 5)- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) in education refer to groups of educators who regularly collaborate to enhance their teaching practices and improve student learning outcomes. The concept of PLCs is based on the idea that educators can achieve more significant and sustained improvements in their teaching and students' learning by working together than by working in isolation.

**Title II** (page 5) – Title II in education refers to a specific section of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), reauthorized as Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in 2015. Title II primarily focuses on improving teacher and principal quality through professional development, recruitment, and retention efforts. The aim is to ensure that all students have access to highly qualified educators, thereby enhancing the overall quality of education.

**Equitable** (page 6) – Equitable in education refers to ensuring fairness and justice in educational opportunities, resources, and treatment so that all students have the necessary support to succeed, regardless of their background or circumstances. This involves recognizing and addressing the diverse needs of students and taking intentional actions to eliminate disparities and barriers that can hinder academic achievement and personal development

**Equity** (page 6)– Equity involves ensuring fair treatment, access, opportunities, and advancement for all individuals while striving to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented the full participation of some groups. In education, equity means providing all students with the resources and support they need to succeed, which may involve differentiated approaches to address specific needs and challenges.

**Implicit Bias** (page 6) – Implicit bias refers to the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner. These biases, which can be both favorable and unfavorable, are involuntarily formed and are typically not within our conscious control. They are shaped by experiences, societal norms, and cultural conditioning and can influence behavior and judgments in subtle ways.

**Neuroscience** (page 6) - Neuroscience in education, often referred to as educational neuroscience or neuroeducation, involves the application of findings from neuroscience to enhance teaching and learning practices. It aims to bridge the gap between how the brain functions and how people learn, providing insights that can help educators develop more effective educational strategies.

**HA** (page 6) – A high ability student is one who demonstrates exceptional ability or potential in one or more areas, often identified through standardized tests, teacher recommendations, or other assessments.

**ML** (page 6) – Multilingual Learner (ML) refers to students who are learning in an environment where multiple languages are used, or who are learning in a language that is not their first language.

**Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS)** (page 7)- A Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is a comprehensive framework designed to provide targeted support to all students based on their individual needs. MTSS integrates academic, behavioral, social-emotional, and mental health interventions into a cohesive, data-driven approach to address the diverse needs of students. The primary goal of MTSS is to ensure that every student receives the level of support they need to succeed in school.

**Professional development (PD)** (page 7) - Professional development in education refers to a wide range of specialized training, formal education, or advanced professional learning intended to help educators improve their skills, knowledge, and effectiveness. This continuous process aims to enhance the teaching practices of educators, ensuring that they remain current with educational trends, research, technologies, and methodologies, ultimately improving student outcomes.

**Remediation** (page 7) - Remediation in education refers to the process of providing additional instructional support to students who are struggling to meet the expected standards or proficiency levels in a particular subject area. The goal of remediation is to help these students catch up to their peers and achieve the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in their academic pursuits

**Enrichment** (page 7) - Enrichment in education refers to providing additional learning opportunities and experiences that go beyond the standard curriculum to enhance students' knowledge, skills, and interests. Unlike remediation, which focuses on addressing learning deficits, enrichment aims to challenge and engage students who have already mastered the core content or who are interested in exploring topics in greater depth.

**Differentiation** (page 7) - Differentiation in education refers to the practice of tailoring instruction to meet the diverse learning needs, interests, and abilities of students within a classroom or educational setting. It involves adjusting the content, process, product, or learning environment to accommodate individual students or groups of students, thereby maximizing their learning potential.

**Instructional strategies** (page 8)- Instructional strategies are techniques, methods, or approaches educators use to facilitate learning and achieve instructional goals. These strategies are designed to engage students, promote understanding, and support the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and concepts. There are numerous instructional strategies available to educators, each with its own strengths and applications depending on the learning objectives, subject matter, and students' needs.

**Efficacy** (page 8) - Efficacy refers to the belief in one's ability to accomplish specific tasks or goals successfully. In the context of education, teacher efficacy refers to a teacher's belief in their capability to positively impact student learning and behavior, as well as their confidence in their own teaching skills and practices

**Instructional coaches** (page 8) - Instructional coaches are experienced educators who provide support, guidance, and professional development to teachers with the goal of improving instructional practices and student learning outcomes. Instructional coaches work collaboratively with teachers to enhance their teaching skills, implement effective teaching strategies, and meet the diverse needs of students.

**SRO** (page 9) –A School Resource Officer (SRO) is a sworn law enforcement officer assigned to work in schools. The role of an SRO goes beyond traditional policing, encompassing various responsibilities aimed at ensuring the safety and well-being of students, staff, and the school community

**Stakeholders** (page 9) - Stakeholders in education refer to individuals, groups, or organizations that have an interest or concern in the educational system and its outcomes.

**Threat assessment matrix** (page 9) - A threat assessment matrix in education is a structured tool used by schools or educational institutions to evaluate and respond to potential threats or risks to the safety and well-being of students, staff, and the school community. It helps school administrators and security personnel assess the severity of threats, determine appropriate interventions or responses, and allocate resources effectively.

**Preventing Youth Suicide Initiative** (page 10) - The Preventing Youth Suicide Initiative (PYSI) is a comprehensive program designed to reduce the incidence of suicide among young people. This initiative typically involves a multi-faceted approach that includes education, intervention, support, and advocacy.

**Raptor System** (page 11) - The system allows schools to efficiently manage and monitor visitor check-ins and check-outs. Visitors are required to present identification, which is scanned and checked against various databases, including sex offender registries.

**PowerSchool Messenger** (page 11) - PowerSchool Messenger is a communication tool integrated within the PowerSchool student information system (SIS). It is designed to facilitate effective and efficient communication between schools and their stakeholders, including students, parents, and staff.

**Inclusion Clubs** (page 12) - Inclusion clubs in schools are student organizations focused on promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the school community. These clubs aim to create a supportive and welcoming environment for all students, regardless of their background, identity, or abilities.