PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

DROPOUT PREVENTION PLAN

Future Focused Approaches to Support ALL Students

BOARD APPROVED

AUG 13 2024



2024-2025

Philadelphia Public Schools Superintendent:	Philadelphia Elementary School Principal:	Philadelphia High School Principal:
Dr. Shannon Whitehead	Danielle Spurlock	Sherell Drake

Part II. Local Dropout Prevention Team Members

School District: Philadelphia Public School District **Telephone #:**601-656-9255 **Mailing Address:** 248 Byrd Avenue, Philadelphia, MS 39350 **E-mail address for Superintendent/Team Leader:** scollins@phillytornadoes.com

	Please check one area for each:		
Name	**Signature Civic/Govt Agency Representative**	**Community Representative**	**School Staff**
Shannon Whitehead, Superintendent	Shannon Whitehead, Ed.D		✓
Stacie Collins, Assistant Superintendent/ Team Leader	Stacie Collins		✓
Toccara Arnold, Director of Student/Staff Services	Toccara Arnold		✓
Sherell Drake, Dropout Prevention Team Member	Sherell Drake		✓
Danielle Spurlock, Dropout Prevention Team Member	D. Spurlock		
Leigh Pilgrim, Dropout Prevention Team Member	Leigh Pilgrim		✓
Melissa Upton, Dropout Prevention Team Member	Melissa Upton		✓
Dr. Ulisa Coburn, Dropout Prevention Team Member	Ulisa Coburn		✓
Renita Menchion, Dropout Prevention Team Member	Renita Menchion		✓
Olmec Martin, Dropout Prevention Team Member	Olmec Martin		✓
Mary Kate Hollingsworth, Dropout Prevention Team Member	Mary Kate Hollingsworth		✓
Penny Saxton, Dropout Prevention Team Member	Penelope Saxton		✓
Harold Coburn, Dropout Prevention Team Member	Harold Coburn	✓	
LeRoy Clemons, Dropout Prevention Team Member		✓	
Sparkle Hill, Dropout Prevention Team Member	Sparkle Hill	✓	

Dropout Prevention Committee

Dr. Shannon Whitehead, Superintendent

Dr. Stacie Collins, Assistant Superintendent

Toccara Arnold, Director of Student/Staff Services

Sherell Drake, High School Principal

Olmec Martin, Assistant Principal

Renita Menchion, Assistant Principal

Melissa Upton, High School Counselor

Danielle Spurlock, Elementary Principal

Leigh Pilgrim, Assistant Principal

Dr. Ulissa Coburn, Elementary Counselor

Penny Saxton, Interventionist

Mary Kate Hollingsworth, Teacher

Harold Coburn, Community Member

LeRoy Clemons, Community Member

Sparkle Hill, Parent

Part III. Statement of Assurance

On behalf of the Philadelphia Public School District, I hereby submit a local Dropout Prevention Plan to provide goals, activities, and services necessary to meet the three overarching goals of the state dropout prevention plan: 1) Increasing the state graduation rate to 85% by 2024-2025; 2) Reduce the state dropout rate by 50% by 2024-2025; and 3) Reducing the truancy rate by 50% by 2024-2025.

I hereby certify that the information contained in this plan follows the appropriate federal and state laws and regulations.

I hereby certify that our school district will cooperate in carrying out any evaluation conducted by or for the Mississippi Department of Education.

I hereby certify that our school district will submit reports as requested by the Mississippi Department of Education.

I hereby certify that our school district has consulted with parents, community partners, business partners, teachers, school staff building administrators, and others in the development of this local dropout prevention plan.

I hereby certify that our school district has taken into account relevant, scientifically based research, strategies and best practices indicating services most effective in preventing dropouts if we focused on students in the earliest grades.

I hereby certify that our school district will prepare and submit an annual progress report on increasing the graduation rates, reducing the dropout rate and reducing the truancy rate.

I hereby certify that our school district will endorse and implement the Fifteen (15) Effective Strategies to promote a reduction in the dropout rate.

I hereby certify that our school district has based the dropout prevention plan on scientifically based research, best practices and all laws in determining strategies to reduce the dropout rate for students with disabilities under IDEA.

I hereby certify that our school district will evaluate our district dropout prevention plan on an annual basis to determine appropriate changes needed for future school years.

I hereby certify that our District School Board has reviewed and approved this plan for submission to the Mississippi Department of Education.

Dropout Prevention Team Leader:

Name: Dr. Stacie Collins Title: Assistant Superintendent

Mailing Address: 248 Byrd Avenue Philadelphia, MS 39350

Telephone #: 601-656-2955 Fax: 601-656-273

District Superintendent: Dr. Shannon Whitehead Dr. Shannon Whitehead
Signature

School Board Chair: Harold Coburn Harold Coburn
Signature

District Data Form

District Name: Philadelphia Public School District **Dropout Rate:** 8.1%

District Data 23-24

	Philadelphia Elementary School (Grades PreK-6)	Philadelphia High School (Grades 7-12)
Number of Schools	1	1
Enrollment 2023-2024	436	330

School Data Form

School Name: Philadelphia High School **Graduation Rate:** 88.7 (2023-2024)

Total Enrollment: 324

Student Demographic Data 2023-2024

Grade	Number Enrolled
Grade 07	50
Grade 08	51
Grade 09	62
Grade 10	65
Grade 11	53
Grade 12	43
Total Enrollment	324

2023-2024 Test Data–Percentage Proficient or Above

	Language Arts	Math	Science
Grade 07	36%	58%	N/A
Grade 08	30%	59%	61%

High School Subject Area Tests–Proficient or Above

Algebra I	Biology	English II	U. S. History
44%	39%	19%	60%

School Data Form

School Name: Philadelphia Elementary School **Graduation Rate:** N/A

Total Enrollment: 432

Student Demographic Data 2023-2024

Grade	Number Enrolled
Pre-Kindergarten	47
Kindergarten	63
Grade 01	59
Grade 02	60
Grade 03	61
Grade 04	41
Grade 05	49
Grade 06	52
Total Enrollment	432

2023-2024 Test Data–Percentage Proficient or Above

	Language Arts	Math	Science
Grade 03	40%	27%	N/A
Grade 04	38%	30%	N/A
Grade 05	43%	35%	88%
Grade 06	27%	38%	N/A

Philadelphia Public School District
2024-2025
Dropout Prevention Plan

Design Principles to Address

Design Principle 1: Ready for College and Career 1.2
Design Principle 2: Require Powerful Teaching and Learning 2.1
Design Principle 3: Personalization 3.2, 3.6
Design Principle 5: Leadership 5,6
Design Principle 6: Purposeful Design 6.1

Philadelphia Public School District Dropout Prevention and Restructuring Plan

Design Principles to Address	Action Steps				
Design Principle 1: Ready for College and Career 1.2	**I. Collect Data**				
	Responsible	**Resources**	**Potential Barriers**	**Deadline**	**Date Achieved**
	Data Team Counselor Teachers	Assessments Data Benchmarking Tools	Providing PD for teachers on reading and analyzing data and making the best use of data to drive instruction.	Monthly	Ongoing
	II. Study student data to determine where students are academically and establish strengths and weaknesses				
	Data Team Counselor Teachers	Benchmarking Tools Student Feedback	Providing PD for teachers on reading and analyzing data and making the best use of data to drive instruction.	Monthly	Ongoing
	III. Implement a scheduled time for meetings with teachers				
	Data Team Counselor Teachers	Benchmarking Tools Student Feedback	Providing PD for teachers on reading and analyzing data and making the best use of data to drive instruction.	Monthly	Ongoing
Design Principle 2: Require Powerful Teaching and Learning	**I. Pace Checks (Check to make sure teachers are on pace at various times during the 9 weeks.)**				
	Principals Teachers Curriculum Team	Pacing Guides	Possible lack of common planning time; teacher attendance	Monthly	Ongoing
	II. Create pace charts/guide/calendars/skills checklist to make sure teacher stay pacer and everyone knows where we are during the 9 weeks				
	Principals	Pacing Guides	Complaints that students are not able to keep the desired pace.	Weekly	Ongoing
Design Principle 3: Personalization	**I. Hold monthly meetings and request all staff attend meetings**				
	Curriculum Director Principal Teachers	Pacing Guides	Time and attendance from the community and staff and consistency of attendance		
	II. Partnership with community leaders, industries, IHL, and career opportunities				
	Counselor Principal	Flyers Phone Calls Newspaper	Having enough available options to increase all students; limited businesses in the area, that may limit what is available to students;	Monthly/ Ongoing	Ongoing

	Assistant Principal	Career Fair to bring parents to the school	location may make it difficult to attract college reps from across the state		
	III. Superintendent, Counselor, and Principal reaches out to community members in attempt to create a better community/school partnership				
	Counselor Principal Federal Programs Director	Flyers Phone Calls Newspaper Newsletters Art Class Competition Career fair to bring parents to the school	Time; making sure community industries can provide partnership regularly	Ongoing	Ongoing
Design Principle 4: Personalization	**I. Parent night out for rising freshman/seniors; Orientation; Open House**				
	Counselor Principal Assistant Principal Teachers	Orientation Graduation Track meeting with all students 3rd Grade Literacy Night Time Computer Labs Parents	Students and parents	Ongoing	Ongoing
	II. FAFSA Night				
	Counselor Principal Assistant Principal College Representatives	Computer Labs Parents	Student and parent attendance	March-Ongoing	March 31
	III. Host "Real-World Fair"				
	Counselor Principal Assistant Principal	Time Business Leaders	Student/parent attendance; participation; industry members' schedules	Open	November-Ongoing
Design Principle 5: Leadership	**I. Modified schedules as necessary for class time loss**				

	Counselor Principal	Bell Schedule Master Schedule	Making sure that all possible scenarios are mapped out and make sure plans for any potential hiccup are in place	Open	ASAP
Design Principle 6: Purposeful Design	**I. Recruit and retain quality instructors**				
	Principal Assistant Principal	Teacher fairs College Recruitment Fairs	Teacher shortages; lack of math and science graduates from IHLs in Mississippi and recruiting of staff by other school districts	Ongoing	ASAP

Philadelphia Public School District Dropout Prevention and Restructuring Plan

Objectives	Initiatives	Implementation Process
1. ***Identify warning signs of dropping out*** 2. ***Reduce risk factors of dropping out***	• Use a data management system to track grades, test scores, retention, discipline, and attendance. • Provide opportunities for students to receive assistance and/or credits to graduate.	• I-Ready provides data necessary to track student performance benchmark tests • PK program and HMH/Into Reading are utilized to begin students in the PK-3 on a pathway to build strong reading skills and prepare them for success at each grade level • KRA, PK Assessments, STAR Reading and Accelerated Reading tracks student performance in reading, language, and math • ELS assesses academic performance of the students in grades K-8 Mathematics and ELA; ELS Benchmark Assessments Grades 5 and 8 Science, English II, Biology I, Algebra I, and U.S. History • Renaissance Learning assesses academic performance and progress monitor
	• Provide various options for graduation	• SAMs tracks grades, retention, discipline, and attendance • Progress Learning, Jumpstart for ACT, Math and Literacy Coach Consultants provide additional support for students in the districts in grades PK-12 to ensure additional support is provided to students. • Dual Enrollment allows high school juniors and seniors to earn high school and college credits simultaneously. • Learning strategy classes allow students to gain knowledge of their main classes and develop strategies to implement in learning as they prepare for state tests.

	• Provide support for students who are in danger of academic failure	• MTSS/TST teams identify students with academic/behavioral weaknesses, provide individualized interventions to address areas of concern. • Student Support Personnel works with students in danger of failing, provides tutoring and information related to the students. • Extended School Day provides support for students who are in danger of academic failure • Extended School Year provides extra support for students who did not master the standards during the school year. It also helps to generate skills and motivation in the academic subject areas for success in education beyond high school.
	• Provide opportunities for students to feel invested in their education	• SAMs is provided through the student information system. Students can log on to view their grades, attendance, and make course selections for the coming school year. • Individualized Career and Academic Plans (ICAP) are created by all 8th grade students and updated yearly.
	• Provide support for students demonstrating excessive discipline issues	• School counselors work to identify behavior issues, provide counseling, and develop behavior plans for students in need. • PPSD and Weems Mental Health partner to provide counseling services for students with behavior/emotional problems. • The Neshoba County/Philadelphia Youth Court provides transition for students returning from the Detention Center as well as placement for students with excessive behavioral problems in the traditional instructional environment.
3. Reduce student absences	• Track student attendance and provide incentives to improve student attendance	• The Philadelphia/Neshoba County Truancy Officers are notified when students obtain 5 unexcused absences. • School Status Parent Notification alerts parents when their child is absent from school.
4. Improve school/parent/community partnerships	• Develop programs/strategies for connecting school, home, and community	• Perfect Attendance Announcements to display the students with perfect attendance. • Strategic Planning Committee is a group of school, parent, student, and community leaders who collaborate to identify district strengths and weaknesses and develop strategies for improvement. • School Status online tool allows parents to view their child's grades, attendance, homework, and discipline.

		• Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled as needed during the school year. • School Events such as sports, music programs, and award programs are scheduled throughout the year and advertised for parent/community participation.