

School Council Notes

January 19, 2022

How do we develop a School Improvement Plan (SIP)?

These are the priorities we are taking on at school. Some may be pushed to the back burner right now because we are concentrating on safety. In determining the goals, we try to think about what is most important and most impactful. We look to the edges to see what is needed knowing we will get all the students. The instructional leadership team looks at data to see areas we need to work on, as well as getting feedback from our teaching teams. The district also provides some guidance on this.

Our School Improvement Goals

- Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)
- Chronic Absenteeism
- Equity and Access
- Math Achievement
- Systems of Support

- Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

Teaching social emotional skills is as important as teaching academic content. More about this goal below.

- Chronic Absenteeism

This one is difficult right now. We acknowledge students are out because they are quarantining and also families are opting for their child to be out after breaks out of an abundance of caution. We work with individual students' families to help ensure they are at school.

- Equity and Access

We are always thinking about equity. Baldwin has an Equity Team. The district would like school equity teams to conduct a self-assessment and audit. Based on the outcome, we will have professional development around the most pressing needs.

- Math Achievement

Math is currently our need over English Language Arts (ELA). The math data for low income and high needs students are the reason we are focusing on math.

- Systems of Support

We've talked about the multi-tiered systems of support for our students (MTSS) - tier 1 = all students, tier 2 = some students, tier 3 = outliers. Teachers look at data with the instructional leadership team and come up with a plan to help those who are not yet performing at grade level and provide a plan for support.

Here is the [DRAFT](#) of the Baldwin SIP.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

What is it? Why are we focusing on it?

Social Emotional Learning is as important as academic learning. It is essential for success in school, work, and life. It is how to manage emotions, be aware of what is happening with your body when you have emotions, having empathy and making responsible decisions. When kids feel safe and happy, they focus better at school.

Here is a short video about what [SEL](#) is and why it is important.

About ten years ago, state bullying legislation was put in place where all school districts were to have a bullying plan and include social emotional learning. Our school has used *Responsive Classroom* as a guide for SEL practices.

We have been exploring a research based SEL curriculum and "Second Step" is a curriculum that works for the grade levels we serve. Second Step has age appropriate lessons. Some teachers have volunteered to pioneer it, trying it out this year with some of our clinical staff starting to use it as well. We will start using it in full next school year. Fourth grade is starting to implement Second Step in both classrooms.

Second Step components include empathy, strategies for calming down, strategies for playing fairly, being assertive, taking the perspective of others.

Second Step has weekly 40 minute lessons and then over the course of the week, students will practice those skills.

Here is a short [video](#) that gives a district's perspective of the Second Step Program.

Having a curriculum will help us all to be on the same page, for example, having a schoolwide calm down policy. For the younger grades, there are puppets and large pictures of faces. For the older students, there are videos showing different scenarios. There are also home components of the curriculum for things to try at home.

Here is another short [video](#) about how SEL can decrease problem behaviors.