

August 18, 2014

Superintendent outlines ambitious agenda

By Dave Sheehan, CCSD Communications

Every new school year is filled with promise and challenges, and the 2014-15 school year will be no different. Students, parents and employees will see a number of changes this school year, according to Clark County School District (CCSD) Superintendent Pat Skorkowsky.



Skorkowsky said his 2014-15 agenda includes many exciting initiatives aimed at ensuring the success of every student in every classroom. These include:

- An \$8 million investment in professional development to ensure teachers can better design effective instruction based on the new state standards;
 - A new student information system that will give parents “real-time” information on their students such as attendance, grades, the status of homework assignments, etc. The Infinite Campus parent portal will launch in early October.
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- An expansion of the new “Zoom School” model. CCSD now has 16 elementary schools in areas with large numbers of English Language Learners who will receive pre-kindergarten, full-day kindergarten, extra reading interventions and tutoring, and an extended school year;
 - The unveiling of new policies and procedures suggested through the Task Force on Bullying to expand creative programs to prevent bullying and better handle student conflict when it happens;
 - CCSD continues to prepare for a new evaluation system for teachers and administrators that will provide more useful feedback on instruction to support the professionals in CCSD schools;
 - A team of business executives and district leaders is now developing a model to measure the value or Return on Investment that is earned from the programs and departments in CCSD. The district will expand those programs that work and end those not showing sufficient results.
 - A \$2 million investment in a new data tool that will allow schools to more efficiently track which individual students are “on track” to graduate – and which ones need interventions to help.

As superintendent, Skorkowsky will be accountable for progress on the above initiatives. The Board of School Trustees will measure his performance on the following success indicators:

- Increase third grade reading proficiency
- Reduce achievement gaps between student groups
- Increase graduation rates
- Increase parent participation in schools
- Increase student safety in schools
- Increase participation in Advanced Placement and Career and Technical Education programs

Skorkowsky said, “This is our pledge to the community – we call it “The Pledge of Achievement.” Parents, students, employees and others can track the district’s progress and take the pledge at www.pledgeofachievement.com.