

HALTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



2010 - 2013

OUR VISION

In June, 2010, the Halton Catholic District School Board adopted a collaboratively developed multi-year strategic plan, “Fulfilling the Promise: Strategic Directions 2010-2015”. The strategic commitments reflect the key areas of focus for our Board. “Achieving, Believing, Belonging” captures the underlying intent of all Board initiatives. Our vision and strategic directions provide guidance for the meticulous planning processes to develop annual system priorities, operational plans, our Board Improvement Plan and School improvement Plans.

The Halton Catholic District School Board is a model learning community, widely recognized as distinctively Catholic, providing exceptional education, while nurturing the call to love and to serve as a people of faith, living out God’s plan.

The Halton Catholic District School Board’s Improvement Plan for Student Achievement guides our collective efforts to attain systemic improvement for all students, as we focus on Achieving. This plan articulates four key priorities, and identifies some of the evidence based strategies that will enable us to:

- Promote Continuous Improvement in Student Achievement
- Reduce the Achievement Gap
- Improve Student Engagement
- Improve Parental Engagement

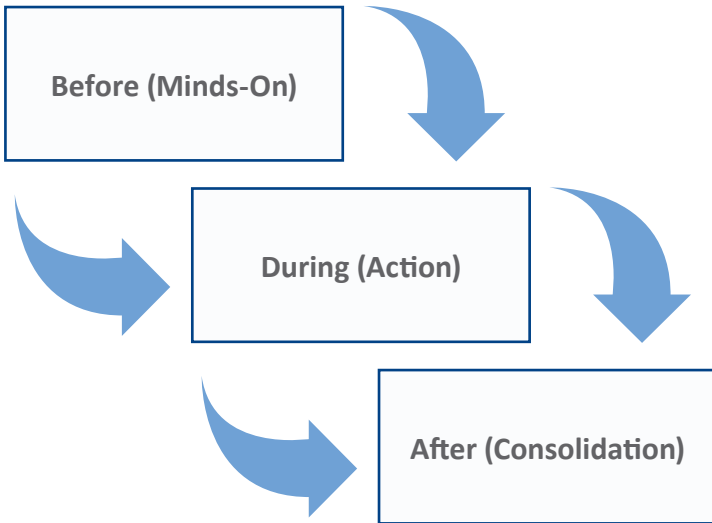
PROMOTE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Founded upon an understanding of the dignity of the human person, a clear emphasis on high levels of achievement in Literacy and Numeracy is evident throughout all classrooms and schools in the Halton Catholic District School Board.

Staff implement evidence-based strategies in alignment with Board priorities and the School Effectiveness Framework in every classroom and every school including, but not limited to:

- Developing, communicating and implementing a 21st Century Skills Strategy
- Use of data to inform instruction
- Gradual Release of Responsibility approach to instruction
- Comprehensive Literacy Program
- Use of Instructional Pathways / Professional Learning Cycles and Differentiated Instruction to provide precision teaching
- Large blocks of time for Literacy and Numeracy instruction
- Teacher Moderation
- Use of higher order and critical thinking tasks
- Assessment for/as/of learning
- Accountable student talk and active listening
- Explicit teaching of various text forms such as graphic, informational and literary across the curriculum

- Using a three-part-lesson to promote learning:



- Open-response questions or problems that focus on big ideas and real-world math applications across the curriculum
- Use of manipulatives, concrete materials and technologies for investigating mathematical concepts and solving problems
- Using group problem solving approaches when learning new concepts
- Ongoing job-embedded professional learning opportunities to support the effective use of evidence-based strategies

IMPROVED STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Students will report improved levels of engagement, a stronger sense of belonging and higher levels of spiritual engagement when their faith development is nurtured in respectful, equitable and inclusive Catholic learning communities.

Engage all students, Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12) across all subjects, through the following:

- Faith-based peer leadership activities that foster faith development
- Infusing the Focus on Faith theme, as well as the grade level Catholic Social Justice Themes and Essential Questions across the curriculum
- Ongoing Adult Faith Formation opportunities for school staff to support and nurture their Catholic faith
- Equity and diversity practices that align with Board and Ministry policy
- Differentiated instruction and learning resources that reflect individual student strengths, needs and learning preferences [i.e., boys, girls, English Language Learners (ELL), and students with Individual Education Plan (IEP) goals and expectations]
- Authentic, relevant learning experiences and experiential learning opportunities; increased Board program pathways and career exploration activities that support students to choose a pathway of their choice

REDUCING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

Staff are responsive to the needs of all students and deliver differentiated assessment-based instruction to intentionally support the strengths, needs and interests of each student to improve achievement and success in all subjects and programs.

Engage all students, K-12 across all subjects, through the following:

- Utilize data at the school level to focus attention on each student's learning and on areas where gaps are evident
- Promoting various career pathways and destinations
- Differentiate and adapt curriculum for English Language Learners and students with Special Education needs
- Use technology, including assistive and interactive technology and resources
- Activities to guide goal-setting, course and program selection
- Increased Program Pathways including programming in the areas of:
 - Cooperative Education
 - Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs
 - Accelerated and Focus Programs (International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement)

IMPROVED PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

Parents, families and communities are purposefully and actively engaged in their school communities through collaborative and reciprocal relationships for the purpose of intentionally improving student achievement and success.

Engage parents, in all grades and across subjects, through the following:

- Provide training for school administrators and Catholic School Councils (CSC) regarding the role of CSCs in school improvement planning, parent and community engagement
- Learning opportunities, resources and supports are provided to help parents support their child's faith formation, student learning and have productive parent-teacher-student conversations
- CSC goals are consistent with the Board's Focus on Faith Framework and support School Improvement Plans



Achieving...Believing...Belonging!

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This document is an abridged version of the Halton Catholic District School Board's Improvement Plan for Student Achievement 2010-2013. The full version is available at: www.hcdsb.org/Board/bip/