



# ALLEN PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*an uncompromising commitment to excellence*

## **Riley Education Center**

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John J. Sturock, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

September 20, 2016

Dear Allen Park School Community,

We in Allen Park Public Schools have much to be proud of. Our community is supportive, our students mean the world to us, our extra-curricular programs are consistently highlighted as some of the best in the area, and our buildings are beautiful. While the majority of our students demonstrate reading proficiency, a sizeable minority – 30-40% – do not.

We are proud of our accomplishments but we recognize the room for improvement in reaching ALL of our students. To this end, we are implementing a Multi-Tier System of Support (MTSS) model of instruction within our elementary buildings beginning with the current school year.

Rather than being a revolution in how we teach our children, MTSS is an evolution in how we teach our children. MTSS is based on current educational research and is a point of emphasis across Wayne County, the state of Michigan, and beyond. Some of the key components we are implementing currently include:

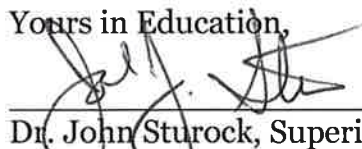
- A “common schedule” in which grade level teachers have an opportunity meet daily to discuss student progress, instructional strategies, lesson planning, and meeting student needs based on their response to interventions, etc.
- Extended literacy blocks (classes) ranging from 90 minutes to over 120 minutes per day, depending on grade level, that include whole group, small group, and individual instruction throughout the block.
- Universal (all students) screening of basic literacy skills 3 times per year (September, January, May). Students identified as at-risk of not meeting grade-level reading benchmarks will receive additional intervention immediately. Their progress will be monitored regularly to determine the effectiveness of the interventions, which could be continued, changed, or discontinued based on the data that is collected throughout the process.
- Within the literacy block, additional staff support will be provided for students eligible for Special Education Services and for those deemed “at-risk,” but this support will happen after the general education instruction takes place.
- In the case of students already eligible for Special Education Services, each classroom teacher and resource room teacher will collaborate on their shared students’ grades. The general education teacher will ultimately post the grades, while the special education teacher will be accountable for meeting their students’ IEP goals and objectives. It is critical that such students be exposed to the general education curriculum, with necessary differentiation and accommodations, while also receiving additional, specialized instruction to address their skill deficits.

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MTSS is all about teamwork and collaboration. We, as a community, will work together and learn together for the benefit of ALL of our students. However, this transformation will not happen overnight, and we anticipate full implementation will require 3 to 5 years. Nonetheless, through the ongoing commitment of our staff, students, and families, we will successfully see it through. Thank you for your partnership in providing the very best education for our APPS students.


Yours in Education,

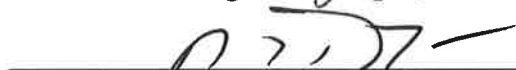
  
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