**Gallatin County Schools**

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Report for February 19, 2019 Gallatin County Board of Education Meeting

1. The Gallatin County BOE and general public can now follow the district’s improvement efforts live online from our district website. We have established a new [[Continuous Improvement](http://www.gallatin.kyschools.us/Content2/1560)] link located in the lower right corner of the homepage. This link will provide access to our CDIP and the district 30-60-90 day plan. The 30-60-90 day plan includes most district wide improvement efforts. Goals are listed and highlighted green for completed, yellow for in process and red for not completed or started. In addition, in the right column of the 30-60-90 day plan there are links to documents that serve as evidence of improvement efforts and results. Putting our goals, activities and evidence on a live document is a high level of monitoring and accountability. Many improvement efforts can be random acts of improvement that require lots of effort. A plan focuses the activities and provides a way to monitor and measure success. It is my hope to become as transparent as possible so people will know what we are trying to do. Hopefully, this will create a greater confidence in our system as we move forward which may ultimately increase community participation.
2. New Kentucky Academic standards are being rolled out by KDE in March. A team will attend a new standard workshop on March 15th. The new standards will be assessed starting next year!
3. New graduation requirements are closer to being approved. Once approved, we may want to review the changes and determine if our policy stands or should it change to reflect the new Kentucky requirements.
4. Kentucky is also changing assessment and accountability requirements. Starting next school year, 2019-2020, **grades 3-11 will take online assessments**. We must review our access to computers and plan accordingly! If we currently do not have adequate access then we need to determine what’s needed.
5. On Friday, February 1st a team from the district visited Pulaski County High School. This is one of three hub schools in Kentucky. We were challenged to begin a systems approach to continuous improvement. Systems create ownership and provide a framework for sustained improvement. See notes from this meeting in the [30-60-90 day plan](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sA1FpNmhhTCYwtSbFH3uHfGUKvt5iXuodhRYuFHKdWE/edit?usp=sharing).
6. We are in the beginning process of unifying our efforts in creating a systems approach in each of our buildings as well as district wide. Representatives from each school along with me are scheduled to attend a 4 day Jim Shipley training during the last week of March. This is a huge commitment especially the week before Spring Break. The training was highly recommended by Sam Watkins, our assigned KDE turn around school specialists. We are hoping this training is as outstanding as we are hearing some rave reviews from other districts. This should put our systems approach for school improvement initiative in a new gear.
7. We are continuing to research options for providing a Social/Emotional Learning program for each school and the district. We met with Dr. Bargione to discuss the BOUNCE program. I encourage you to read the [notes](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zGgSOjjIT-81g4oDWjyDvJXnFRQc51pLvg46TjNbrho/edit?usp=sharing) from that meeting on our 30-60-90 day plan. Dr. Bargione is a former school psychologist in the JCPS. He along with others recently founded the BOUNCE program. Dr. Bargione shared many experiences with the team. He also shared evidence of great success. He outlined the importance of a good Social/Emotional Support System in helping to develop the whole child. **The three main goals of the BOUNCE program are to give schools the tools and techniques that will help students build critical thinking skills, develop resiliency and the ability to self regulate their emotions.**  He made sure to emphasize that this program will empower teachers. It’s not adding something more on their plate. In addition, he recommends all staff, certified and classified, receive training. His point being that many of our students develop positive relationships with classified staff. BOUNCE will also collaborate with the community and host events for parents. This proposal would cover a 2 ½ year span of building the framework and then implementation.
8. The district admin team along with KDE Continuous Improvement Coaches are planning a 3 day curriculum alignment professional workshop for the end of the school year. The plan is to begin the process of vertical alignment of standards and develop a system for periodically reviewing and monitoring. The Lower and Upper Elementary will work together and the Middle and High Schools will work together in an effort to create a seamless flow from one level to the next. Principals are doing some groundwork to ensure these three days are productive and that all teachers will provide evidence of progress.
9. I am in the process of developing a system for identifying needs to be address with Title funding. Each school will apply for Title funding. The process will include SBDM approval, evidence of parent involvement, goals for improvement and a narrative with each request.
10. District principals and central office admin are meeting twice each month to review and monitor our CDIP. These meetings have lasted up to four hours some days. The principals are networking as they plan professional learning and other improvement initiatives for their buildings. We are working on being open and honest in our discussions. We have had many tough conversations and walked away feeling good because we are unified and have a plan for moving forward. It has been a wonderful experience to be a part of this team. We will continue to narrow our focus and tackle the tough issues that we face. It is my hope that principals are feeling supported. Moreover, they have a strong voice in our plans. We want consensus for each improvement initiative instead of central office admin dictating. They know their staff and students better than anyone. It’s tough being a school principal. They can make all the right decisions on any given day and still go home feeling defeated. They need all the support and encouragement we can provide. Principals will grow in confidence and become much more effective leaders when our system of support adequately provides what they may need. The same can be said about our teachers.