

— THE —
POWELL COUNTY
Way —





VISION AND MISSION

The Powell County Way

VISION

To cultivate a learning community where
collaboration, communication,
contribution, and critical thinking
empower every student.



MISSION

The mission of Powell County Schools is to
ensure every student experiences consistent,
high-quality learning focused on strong
instruction, student engagement, continuous
growth, and the development of the skills
needed for success in school and life.



STUDENTS FIRST ★ EXCELLENCE FOR ALL ★ OPPORTUNITY ★ STRONGER TOGETHER ★ ALWAYS GROWING



POWELL COUNTY SCHOOLS

CORE VALUES

- Students First
- Excellence for All
- Opportunity
- Stronger Together
- Always Growing



NON-NEGOTIABLES

- Clear Learning Targets and Success Criteria
- Consistent Instructional Framework with Explicit Modeling
- High Level of Student Engagement Through Active Learning
- Daily Use of Formative Assessment to Drive Instruction
- Differentiated Instruction to Meet Diverse Learner Needs



MISSION

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VISION

To cultivate a learning community where collaboration, communication, contribution, and critical thinking empower every student.





Student-Centered vs. Adult-Centered Decisions

Student-Centered Decisions

- Prioritize meaningful learning experiences
- Increase student engagement and ownership
- Focus on long-term student success
- Encourage critical thinking and collaboration
- **Ask:** "What do students need?"

Adult-Centered Decisions

- Prioritize comfort or convenience
- Maintain existing routines because they are familiar
- Avoid change because it feels difficult
- Focus primarily on adult needs
- **Ask:** "What is easiest for us?"

“

*The work becomes transformational when we stop asking what is easiest for adults and start asking what is **best for students.***



How the Pieces Work Together

TR

Building clarity, consistency, and support across Powell County Schools

Curriculum Map

What are we teaching and when?

- Standards
- HQIR lessons/resources
- Assessments
- Pacing



Non-Negotiables

What should instruction consistently look like?

- Learning targets
- Student engagement
- Checks for understanding
- Grade-level learning



Walkthrough Tool

How do we support and monitor implementation?

- Classroom evidence
- Feedback conversations
- Instructional trends
- Coaching opportunities

The goal is not compliance — the goal is coherence.

INSTRUCTIONAL NON-NEGOTIABLES

1



CLEAR LEARNING TARGETS AND SUCCESS CRITERIA

- Every lesson shall include clearly defined congruent learning targets
- Shall be posted daily along with the standard number
- Shall be referenced throughout the lesson
- Will be used by students to monitor their own progress

2



CONSISTENT INSTRUCTIONAL FRAMEWORK WITH EXPLICIT MODELING

- All classrooms will implement a common instructional framework (e.g., "I Do, We Do, You Do") that includes explicit modeling, guided practice, and independent application
- Consistent routines and expectations are evident across classrooms

3



HIGH LEVELS OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT THROUGH ACTIVE LEARNING

- Students are actively engaged in meaningful learning tasks
- Instruction includes structured opportunities for discussion, collaboration, and critical thinking
- Engagement goes beyond compliance to include student voice, thinking, and participation

4



DAILY USE OF FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT TO DRIVE INSTRUCTION

- Formative assessments must be congruent to the standard
- Teachers will consistently check for understanding throughout the lesson
- Instruction is adjusted in real time based on student responses
- Students receive timely, specific feedback and opportunities to improve their learning

5



DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION TO MEET DIVERSE LEARNER NEEDS

- Instruction is intentionally designed to meet the diverse needs of all students.
- Teachers use strategies such as small groups, scaffolding, and varied instructional methods
- All students are provided access to rigorous, grade-level content with appropriate support



INSTRUCTIONAL WALKTHROUGH

TR

Teacher: _____ Time: _____

What are you looking for? What questions do you have for the teacher or in general?

NN
1



CLEAR LEARNING TARGETS AND SUCCESS CRITERIA

☐ Learning Target – posted ____ standard # ____ referenced ____

NN
2



CONSISTENT INSTRUCTIONAL FRAMEWORK WITH EXPLICIT MODELING

- ☐ Flashback/Bellringer (evidence of)
- ☐ Anticipatory set (Hook) 3 - 5 minutes
- ☐ Modeling
- ☐ Practice: guided ____ independent ____
- ☐ Evidence of curriculum use (HQIR)

NN
3



HIGH LEVELS OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT THROUGH ACTIVE LEARNING

- ☐ Evidence of student engagement
- ☐ Evidence of Learner Profile

NN
4



DAILY USE OF FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT TO DRIVE INSTRUCTION

- ☐ Checks for understanding
- ☐ Exit slip (evidence of formative)

NN
5



DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION TO MEET DIVERSE LEARNER NEEDS

- ☐ Evidence of differentiation/scaffolds/
access to grade-level learning





Building a Stronger Instructional System

- New Assessment Screener
- Progress Monitoring Tool
- MTSS
- Principal Leadership Meetings
 - Intentional Focus





The Powell County Way in Action

- **Decision Making Aligned with Mission and Vision**
- **Monthly Principal Updates to Board**
- **Community Newsletter following Benchmark Assessments with Updates on Progress and School Spotlight**
 - **Local Accountability System**
- **The Powell County Way.....is more than just words**

