



Dallas Achieves: Transforming Public Education in Dallas

Key Connectors

December 19, 2007

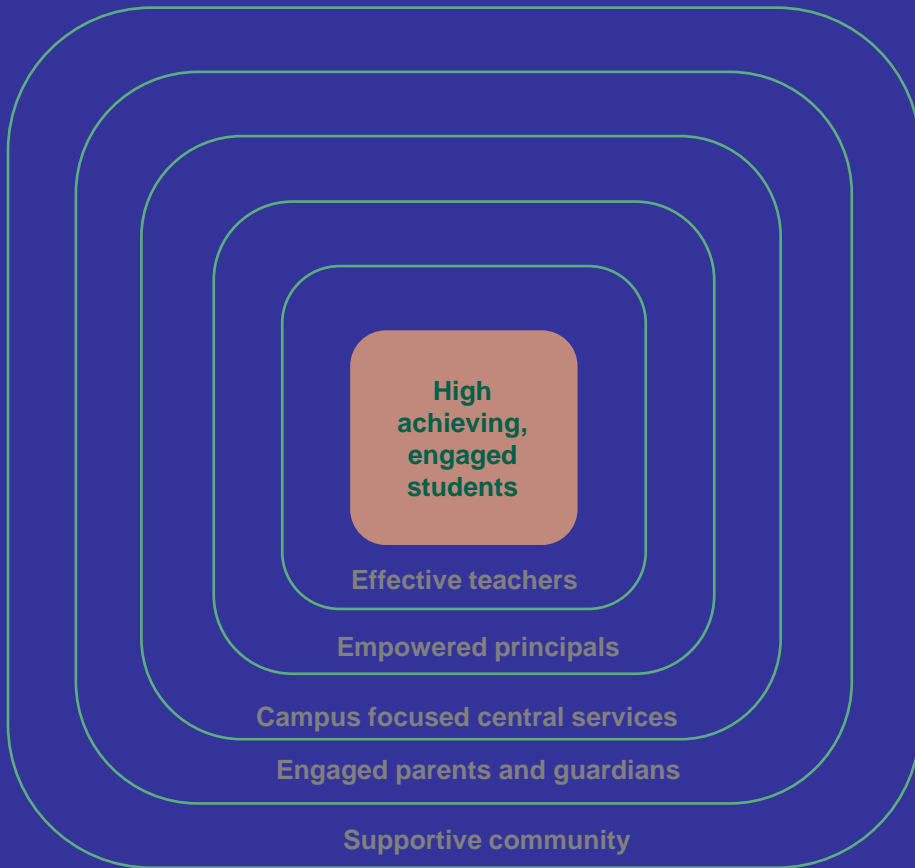
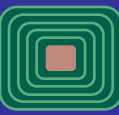


Our aspiration

**Ensure that every student in
Dallas ISD graduates from
high school college- and
workforce-ready**

**Dallas Achieves is the comprehensive
transformation effort to fulfill our purpose**

High achieving, engaged students



A. Raise expectations for all students while ensuring adequate resources and support

- Graduate students college ready and workforce ready
- Establish growth metrics to ensure students learn at least a year's worth within a year's time
- Provide challenging academic environments
- Measure and report progress to community
- Embed high expectations at all levels of Dallas ISD

B. Target all students with a gap between current performance and college readiness and workforce readiness track

- Assess student needs and provide intervention plans for all students not on college readiness track, building on NCEA's recommendation for Tier 1 and 2 schools
- Provide an array of well supported options with significant focus on reading, writing and mathematics
- Check progress and analyze risks at school transition points
- Budget for extra time
- Identify, segment, and target dropouts

C. Increase student engagement

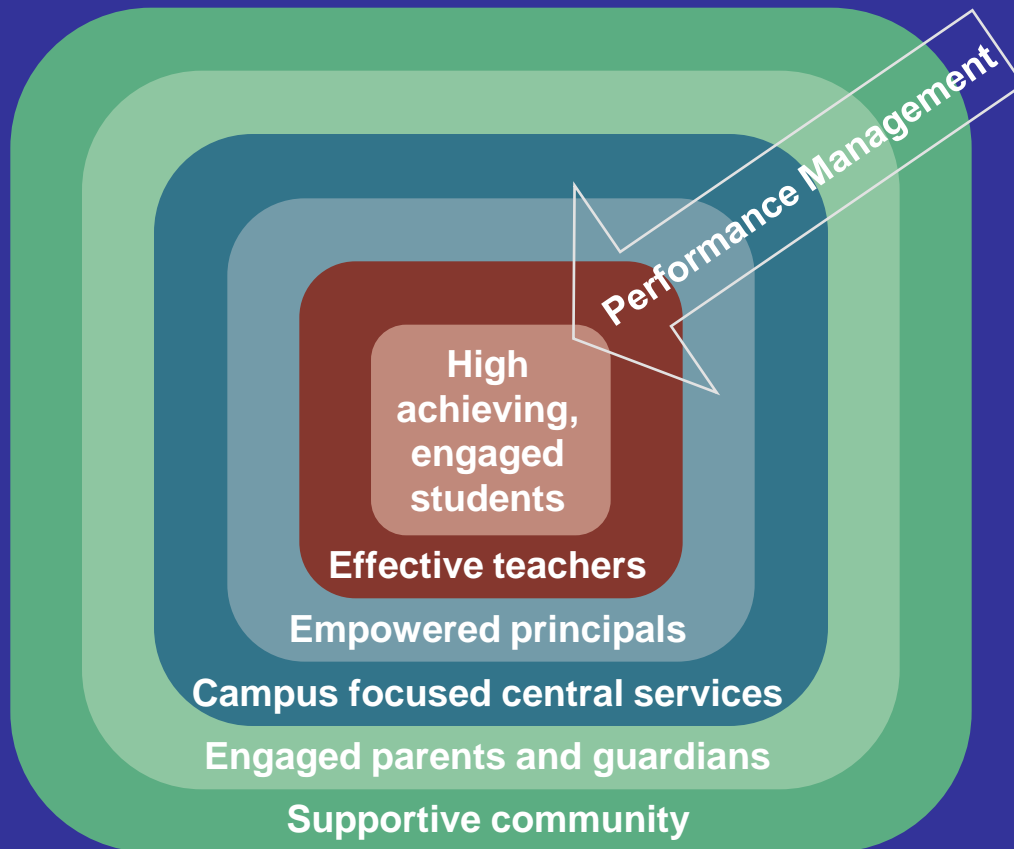
- Measure student engagement, motivation and parent confidence regularly
- Identify and attack risk areas
- Invest in proven systems and alternate school models for engagement
- Create individual learning plans for all students and engage students in setting and reaching goals

D. Ensure an early start for every child – prepare “future students” of Dallas ISD

- Raise awareness of benefits of early childhood education in providing strong foundation for academic success
- Improve quality and effectiveness of programs
- Improve access to programs

How will we get there?

Student engagement critical to our success



- **Improved academic achievement and graduation rates**
 - students will be held to higher standards
 - adequate resources will be provided to assist students
 - students will have individualized learning plans and be engaged in developing them
- **Better attendance**
 - all students will be engaged in the learning process
 - invest in proven systems and alternate school models
- **Reduced dropout rates**
 - proper, effective interventions will occur for non-college ready students

Approach will leverage research and proven best practices

Dr. Peter D. Hart Research Associates cite Four major categories for dropouts in the US

Targeted approach required for each segment

Successful but bored

- 62% of dropouts had grades of “C’s and above”
- 66% say they would have worked harder if expectations were higher
- 47% say classes were not interesting

Raise expectations to challenge students

Make Learning relevant through college/workforce career academies

Struggling to keep up

- 35% say they were failing in school
- 30% could not keep up with homework
- 32% were required to repeat a grade
- 43% say they missed too many days to keep up

Provide after-school and summer-school programs

Provide smaller class sizes

Track attendance and intervene early

Pre-mature adult

- 32% left to get a job
- 26% became a parent
- 22% had to help their family

Provide parenting and counseling support

Engage parents to communicate importance of graduation

Lacks discipline

- 38% say they had too much freedom and no rules in their life
- Expelled for criminal behavior
- Incarcerated

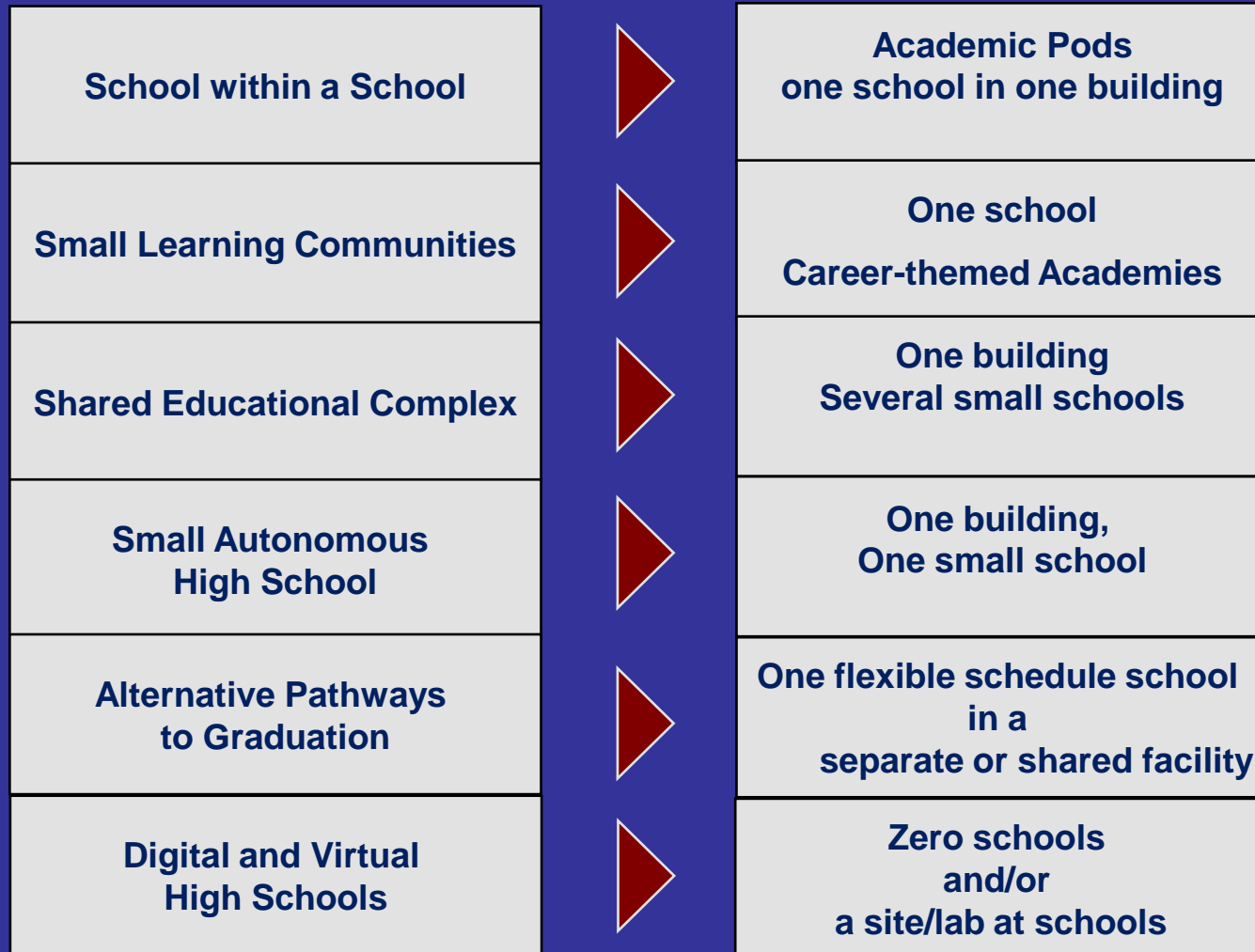
Provide alternative pathways to graduation

HS Redesign Goals:

All students will:

- graduate college ready and with college access (*Rigor*)
- engage in relevant and meaningful learning in high school (*Relevance*)
- participate in personalized learning experiences (*Relationships*)
- maximize the time and resources needed to achieve at high levels (*Results*)

Models for Redesigning High Schools:



What's next?

TMO and district leadership in process of completing plans



TMO will continue to engage this group as we develop more tangible specifics of student engagement plan