

The school year is off to a great start and we hope our students and families are all settling into what I know will be a successful year in District 100. Each of our schools held their annual curriculum nights in the past month to introduce parents to our teaching staff and explain the instructional program in the district. As a district, we strive to create lasting partnerships with families and encourage parents to actively participate in their child's education. Please continue to look for communication from your child's school about opportunities to become involved throughout the school year.

District 100 utilizes several assessments to measure students' academic and language progress and to guide us in school and district improvement. On Thursday, October 6, please look for assessment reports to come home with your child for PARCC, MAP, and ACCESS. Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is the state assessment students in third through eighth grade take in the Spring in English Language Arts and Math. This assessment measures individual student achievement and also provides data for school and district performance. You will be receiving your child's individual report, but please note that official school and district data will not be available until after October 31st. Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) is a benchmark assessment kindergarten through eighth grade students take three times a year in English Language Arts, Math, and Language (grades 2-8 only). This benchmark assessment allows teachers to make instructional decisions and differentiate learning for students at the classroom level. Finally, all students that qualify for bilingual services take the ACCESS test in the Spring to determine their language acquisition progress. Look for this report to come home if you have not already received it from your child's school this year. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions about these assessments.

District 100 staff members continue to work on developing targets and action plans for our District Improvement Plan. Our goals include increasing student achievement in math, literacy, and language acquisition, with targets focusing on data-driven instruction, professional development, communication, and district-aligned curriculum and common assessments. The district goals will be further developed at the school level and will allow principals and teachers to target specific areas for improvement in their buildings while supporting district-wide goals

As you may recall, there was some uncertainty about state education funding for this school year and a full fiscal budget for the 2016-2017 school year was approved at the end of June. There is still much work to be done. Illinois continues to have one of the most regressive education funding systems in the nation, and it still falls short in upholding its obligation to provide all students with equitable resources. District 100 has been advocating for a fix to our broken funding formula and we will continue to do so on behalf of our students. Governor Rauner has formed the bipartisan Illinois School Funding Reform Commission to look into our funding issues and make recommendations by February 1, 2017. We are monitoring their progress and will keep you informed.

The voices of parents from District 100 have made a difference in our fight for equitable funding and we encourage you to continue to contact your legislators and ask them to work for a more equitable funding formula. Visit <http://fundingilfuture.org/action/> for information, resources and an easy way to contact our state representatives.