

Innovation Committee One Pager Recap:

10/21/21 Innovative Solutions to Closing Opportunity Gaps in Our Students' College Access

Purpose:

The Innovation Committee aims to understand and uplift innovative solutions that address some of the District's most persistent challenges. Presenters are invited based on data-driven decisions that have resulted in observable, promising practices that can be replicated or scaled. During the second Innovation Committee on October 21, 2021, practitioner presenters elevated innovative strategies to support students to be college-eligible by earning a C or better in A-G courses. This document serves to share learnings from the committee conversation.

Presenters:

- Rick Miller, Chief Executive Officer and Gina Pascual, Senior Improvement Coach, [CORE](#)
- Jeff Austin, Principal, [Social Justice and Humanitas Academy](#)
- Reginald Brookens, Principal, [King Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science](#)

Synthesized Recommendations:

1. Plan intentionally with teams of adults empowered to act on decisions, rooted in students' success.

- Incorporate equitable grading practices (i.e. Mastery Learning & Grading), grounded in grade-level content standards.
- Create grade-level teams, including freshman success teams, to regularly examine student data and plan proactive approaches and intervening responses.
- Develop vertical articulation across school levels, particularly in preparation for 9th grade Algebra 1.
- Consider individual student needs for both instruction and counseling, particularly while transitioning to 9th grade.

2. Create a culture and system of high expectations coupled with intentional support.

- Develop a shared college-going vision and values alongside educators, staff, students and families.
- Consider removing D's altogether to foster a school-wide commitment to C or better.
- Ensure students and families are well-informed of their progress towards college preparation.
- Create school-specific graduation expectations and class offerings that distinguish scholars: 4 years of mathematics (AP Calculus, AP Statistics), 4 years of science (AP Physics, AP Marine Biology, AP Physiology, AP Environmental Science), 3 years of foreign language.
- Ensure broad awareness of college requirements and opportunities through college workshops, hosting regular virtual college presentations, and college campus visits.

3. Prioritize strong student-adult and peer relationships as the foundation to academic success.

- Prioritize time at the beginning of the year and semester for relationship building.
- Establish one academic counselor per class (e.g. class of 2025) to stay with the same class their entire high school career.
- Develop comprehensive peer mentorship: college & career alumni mentors, seniors mentoring freshmen, and peer mediators to help students through conflict.
- Create structured time for office hours, tutoring and intervention.