

Alicia Walden

From: Clayton Barden [clayton.barden@lcps.org]
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2023 6:47 PM
To: Alicia Walden [alicia.walden@lcps.org]
Subject: RE: FW: New Curriculum Policy
Attachments:

I know you are facing some headwinds out there in the school. You are a great leader with a great team around you. I know you will figure out how to get folks on board with this. It's important that we do this with fidelity at all schools, Alicia. Not only just for literacy scores, but to also provide high quality texts and materials to our students and teachers.

Clayton

On Tuesday, September 2 at 3:58 PM CDT, Alicia Walden <alicia.walden@lcps.org> wrote:

Come on Clayton – Help me out here. Think back to when we were on that 5th grade team together all those years ago. We didn't always follow the book and instead did what we knew was best for kids. And look at what happened – you and I had the highest achievement scores in the entire district. I am just asking for the same leeway and creativity here. We have a record of success in the district at this school, and I'm just asking you to let me let my faculty have some flexibility and autonomy to do what they know works and is best for kids so that we can continue producing the same excellent scores that we have in the past.

Alicia

On Tuesday, September 2 at 2:46 PM CDT, Clayton Barden <clayton.barden@lcps.org> wrote:

No. You know we can't do that. This is policy and we are moving forward with implementation.

Clayton

On Monday, September 1 at 7:39 PM CDT, Alicia Walden <alicia.walden@lcps.org> wrote:

Clayton,

I am emailing to ask for flexibility for our school for the implementation of the Clever Minds curriculum. We have a record of high achievement in our school, particularly in literacy, and have some of the best educators I have ever seen. I am asking for some autonomy in the curriculum delivery so that we can continue with what has worked for us in the past.

Thanks for considering,
Alicia

-----Forwarded message-----

From: Clayton Barden [clayton.barden@lcps.org]
Sent: Monday, September 1, 2023 5:21 AM
To: ALL PRINCIPALS [principals@lcps.org]
Subject: New Curriculum Policy
Attachments:

Principals,

I am emailing today regarding the new district literacy curriculum, Clever Minds. During conversations and school visits, I am being made aware of a level of resistance to this new curriculum. It has been seven years since we adopted new literacy curriculum in the district, and we are most certainly overdue for a change as our literacy scores have been stagnant in recent years. Change is hard - I realize that – but this change to Clever Minds is a **non-negotiable**. We will proceed with full implementation of this curriculum and expect to see it used with fidelity across all classrooms. As a reminder from our recent principals' meeting:

1. The Board approved adoption of this curriculum and district policy states that approved curriculum is the only curriculum to be used in schools.
2. Our literacy scores dictate that inaction is unacceptable. This shift in curriculum is the action we are taking to make a difference across the district.
3. Teachers who do not implement the curriculum will face disciplinary action including, up to, termination.

This is the path forward in our district. I expect you all to be positive spokespeople for this change to help with implementation.

Clayton

Clayton Barden, Ed.D.
Director of Curriculum
Lawrence County Public Schools