



Grade Configuration Implementation

October Update
10/10/07

PSD will soon announce year grade levels will change

By the end of November, schools will finalize the grade level they will adopt, and PSD tentatively plans to announce the year—either 2009 or 2010—that grade levels will change district-wide.

Following discussions with their site-based management teams and staff, schools will formally acknowledge the grade level they plan to adopt by Nov. 18. Once PSD has gathered that information from schools, the district can determine whether grade levels will change district-wide in August 2009 or 2010.

School readiness plans will address major areas of changes

The Grade Configuration Implementation Committee is meeting bi-weekly to help ensure completeness and transparency for the change of grade levels. The Committee is currently working to create the framework for the school readiness plan that each school must complete to communicate its plans for the transition. By the end of October, the committee draft of the framework for the readiness plans will be posted for your comment under the District Initiatives section of the PSD website.

Once the readiness plan framework is adopted by the administration, schools will have through April 2008 to prepare and submit their draft plans for their level—K-5 elementary schools, 6-8 middle schools, K-8, or 9-12 high schools. Readiness plans then will be reviewed and approved by assistant superintendents.

The Committee is basing the framework largely on the input that it has been receiving from the various stakeholders. The Committee welcomes your continued input on the issues, concerns, and questions that need to be addressed to ensure the success of the grade configuration change. You can see what issues have already been logged and add your input at

<http://www.psdschools.org/psdinfo/newsevents/index.aspx?newseventid=3510&affid=>.

Middle school study team researching best practices

A subcommittee studying middle schools is determining essential components of middle schools, based on student achievement and student well-being, according to Joe Cuddemi, co-chair and principal of Kinard Core Knowledge Jr High.

"The goal is to take the best of what schools are currently doing in junior high, research the best components from middle schools and blend them together."

The middle school committee is researching best practices, including what to retain, remove, examine more carefully, and improve. (See inventory of current practices at www.psdschools.org under Grade Configuration Implementation.) Committee members plan to visit top middle schools in late October and November, and will share reports with the committee in December.

PSD planning for smooth transition of classroom positions

PSD's Human Resources department will hold four meetings in regions of the district for teachers to hear plans for movement of classroom positions. A separate meeting also will be scheduled for elementary specials (music, art, and P.E.) teachers. A personnel advisory committee comprised of teachers, classified staff, counselors, a principal, and district HR staff is studying several scenarios for movement of staff.