

# Poudre School District Learning Goals

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*Preparing all students for the  
challenges of a global economy*



# PSD's Learning Goals

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- In the next 2 years, PSD will ***reform*** conditions in schools, as we continue to ***transform*** teaching and learning with Learning Goals
- Leadership shares a ***district perspective*** through which we examine the systemic relations of all our work
- ***Reforms*** are much of what our community sees: grade level changes, school relocation, transparent student-based budgets, boundaries



# Transform and Reform

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- ***Reform*** means to reshape or to form something differently. Grade level changes are reform
- ***Transform*** requires taking a whole new shape. Operating as a learning organization with common learning goals is transformation
- We have years of reform; transforming takes vision and commitment



# PSD's Four Transforming Learning Goals

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# Goal 1: Reading Proficiency

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- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Students Demonstrate Reading Proficiency**
  - 81% of PSD 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students scored proficient or advanced in 2008
  - 4<sup>th</sup> highest 3<sup>rd</sup>-grade reading proficiency score in Colorado
  - Goal: percentage of students scoring proficient/advanced percentage to increase by at least 2% annually, and reach 90%



## Goal 2: Annual Growth

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- **Students achieve at least a year's academic growth each year in language arts and math**
  - Colorado's highly acclaimed Academic Growth Model shows 87% of PSD schools exceeded the expected median growth levels in math based on high levels of academic growth, compared with students and schools statewide.
  - Results in reading and math were equally impressive at 80% and 78%, respectively.



## Goal 3: Advanced Course Enrollment

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- **Students complete an Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or college credit earning class before graduation**
  - 55% of PSD students completed an AP, IB class in 2007-08
  - PSD will encourage and prepare more students to enroll in an AP, IB class or post-secondary credit class to set higher levels of expectation for post-secondary readiness



# Goal 4: Successful Transitions

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- **All students graduate post-secondary ready and successfully transition to another school**
  - PSD's dropout rate is 2.5%, lower than the state average
  - After graduation, 65% of PSD students enter a post-secondary school
  - Within three years, 82% of PSD graduates enroll in a post-secondary school
  - 82% of PSD students graduate within 4 years of entering 9th grade – 8% higher than state average



# Why Reading Proficiency?

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- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade represents culmination of primary literacy years
- National statistics indicate:
  - Students who do not achieve reading proficiency by the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will struggle
  - Non-proficient readers at risk for dropping out
  - Literacy may prevent crime, delinquency, and poverty



# Why Annual Academic Growth?

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- Articulates PSD's mission to *Educate...Every Child, Every Day*
- Colorado's new Academic Growth Model will focus on this measure of accountability
- A more precise expectation than Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)
- Achieving a year's growth compares favorably with higher levels of proficiency



# Why Advanced Course Enrollment?

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- Standards for work readiness and college preparation have the same level of expectations
- Experience boosts the confidence of students whose families have not attended college
- Districts committed to post-secondary readiness have **more than 75%** of students completing at least one advanced class before graduation



# Why Successful Transitions and Reducing Dropout Rates

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Level of student education determines financial earnings:

- Without high school diploma, \$18,000 a year
- High school diploma earned \$25,000 a year
- Bachelor's degree earned \$36,000 a year
- Average dropout will earn less than \$1 million in their lifetime; average student with a bachelor's degree will earn \$2.1 million



# Keys for PSD to Achieve Goals

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## **Professional Development:**

- Support teachers who will help students be prepared for their future
- Provide opportunities for teachers to:
  - Improve literacy instruction
  - Assure students are learning standards to achieve annual growth
  - Design learning so students are post-secondary ready, and can help students with successful transitions



# Keys for PSD to Achieve Goals

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- Assure PSD has **highly qualified teachers in the classroom** and support them with quality professional development for instructional improvement
- **Provide collaborative time for teachers:** allow schools to work together to make changes needed for student improvement; studies show this is the only method that works
- As the district changes grade levels, **focus on successful programs** to implement these changes. For example, middle school planners are studying schools with high achievement for more rigorous middle schools.



# Keys for PSD to Achieve Goals

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- **Continue *learning walks* and Superintendent visits to schools** that provide administrators an understanding of 4 R's –rigor, relevance, relationship and results, and reflective instructional conversations
- **Develop Professional Learning Communities** to focus on results and improving instruction with strategic instructional interventions
- **Continue school improvement efforts** that target goals for school-wide improvement