



School LEA: 0104026

School Name: STUTTGART JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Submitter Information

Submitter Name: KATHY HOPSON
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Submitter Phone: 8706741307
Date of application: 5/12/2017

District Information

District LEA: 0104000
District Name: STUTTGART SCHOOL DISTRICT
Superintendent Name: Nathan Gills
Superintendent Email: ngills@stuttgartschools.org

General Questions

Special Conditions: Focus School
School Rating: D
Is this a brand new LEA? False
Is this an ALE School? False

Vision and Mission

Existing vision and mission: The mission of the the Stuttgart Public Schools is to provide its students with the skills necessary to gather and use information, make sound decisions, formulate ideas, communicate effectively, and become responsible citizens by providing a sequential, comprehensive, challenging curriculum in a positive, safe, orderly environment guided by a dedicated diverse staff in cooperation with the energies, talents, and resources of the community.

New Vision and mission: SJHS will create a rigorous, personalized learning experience that promotes college and career readiness and productive citizenship resulting in annual growth for all while closing the achievement gap.



Rational and Innovation Goals

Rationale for Innovation

Over the past few years, technology has grown to influence nearly every aspect of the U.S. education system. By the end of the decade, most U.S. schools will fully incorporate instructional technology into their structures and schedules. They will use predominantly digital instructional materials. The learning day and year will be transformed and extended. Learning will be personalized, and the reach of effective teachers will be expanded.

Schools that make the most effective use of new technology will adopt a model of blended learning, defined by the Clayton Christensen Institute for Disruptive Innovation (formerly Innosight Institute) as “a formal education program in which a student learns at least in part through the online delivery of content and instruction, with some element of student control over time, place, path and/or pace,” and “at least in part at a supervised brick-and-mortar location away from home.” * What Works Clearinghouse.

Providing students with an individualized and personalized approach serves the needs of students, teachers, and administrators. It provides the time needed by all to raise all levels of achievement through sustainable transformation. Students will have more control of time, path, pace and place of their learning. Personalized learning professional development will be an ongoing part of a successful implementation plan that identifies the strengths and weaknesses in the the transformation efforts.

We presently have 8% of our students that have been retained at some point during their school careers. We believe strongly that a student should not be retained permanently. Research says that students who are retained are at a greater risk of dropping out of school. We believe that the lifetime stigma of "failure" is unnecessary and further increases the likelihood of poor academic performance and disciplinary problems. We also believe that students should have an opportunity to "catch-up" if they are willing to invest the time, effort and demonstrate the mastery of skills necessary. Therefore, we will provide students the opportunity to work ahead in order to "catch-up" with their original classmates.

If given this opportunity, students would have the option to accelerate their learning according to their own learning paces. This would allow for upward mobility between 7th, 8th, and even 9th grades. Being allowed to work on personal pace would be a huge asset to the students who get bored or are not challenged enough. Alternately, students who have fallen behind will have the ability to catch up to their appropriate grade levels. Retention will become less of an issue because students will be able to work their way back into the appropriate state of learning for their grade level.

In a survey of all 7th and 8th grade students at SJHS, 80% said that they would like to have more classes that involved them taking more classes that interest them. Also, over 75% of the the surveyed students stated that they did not perform in classes that they were not interested in. Additionally, 85% of the students surveyed said that they would perform better if the classes were more interesting. A follow-up survey will be conducted in order to ascertain student interests. We will build in an advisory period that will serve not only to address student interest but also to ensure that all students have a "go to" person in order to decrease the likelihood that any of our students will fall through the cracks. moreover, this class will will serve to ensure that all of our students are involved with some sort of "extracurricular" experience.

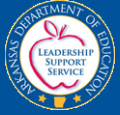


Goal	Goal Description	
1	Through personalized learning we will close the achievement gap that presently exists between our TAAG and Non-TAAG students.	
2	SJHS will transform it's school culture and climate by personalizing the learning for all students resulting in students taking greater responsibility for their learning.	
3	We will expand our STEM options in order to increase the number of students taking STEM classes.	



Innovation Plan

Plan Date	Action	Expected Outcome
06/01/2017	A full-time PLTW teacher will be available at SJHS for the 17-18 school year.	The teacher will make it possible to offer more classes which will result in more students taking STEM classes.
08/14/2017	7th grade core teachers will receive professional development on blended learning in order to personalize learning for our students.	Staff will learn how to implement blended learning in order to personalize the learning for our students.
08/14/2017	Relevant and rigorous learning will be evident across the curriculum.	Students will have exposure in project-based learning across the curriculum.
01/30/2017	Purchase chromebooks so that we will be a 1 to 1 school.	All students will have access to their own chromebook while at school.
03/20/2017	A staff meeting was held to gain information of staff expertise and interest. This information will be used to determine additional course offerings or learning experiences for our students.	additional classes or learning experiences
05/07/2017	A survey will be conducted with students and staff to determine student and staff interest in advisory period offerings and opportunities.	personalize learning experience



Requested Waivers

Code section, Rule, or Local Policy	Goal	Rationale
9.03.3.5 -Physical Education; 9.03.0.6- Fine Arts; ACA 6-16-130- Visual Arts & Music; ACA 6-16-132- Physical Education	3	Stuttgart Junior High School would like to gain the flexibility to allow all its students the opportunity to take a STEM course. For this reason, SJHS is seeking a waiver from the Arkansas statutes requiring students to receive instruction in physical education, fine arts, and music. SJHS recognizes the immense value of these classes in fostering the skills needed for well-rounded and capable students, and would therefore still offer these courses as electives. Moreover, this will allow students a more personalized, tailored learning experience to foster the students' natural aptitudes and interests.
9.03.3.9- Career and Technical Education	3	Stuttgart Junior High School asks for the freedom to allow all students the choice to enroll in a STEM course; therefore, SJHS is seeking a waiver from the Arkansas statutes requiring students to receive instruction in Career & Technical education. Currently SJHS offers Keyboarding and Career Development to 7th graders. Intro to Business Communication & Technology along with Computer Technology is offered for 8th graders. SJHS recognizes the boundless opportunities these classes afford and would therefore offer these courses as electives. Moreover, this will allow students a customized and tailored learning experience that fits their individual aptitudes and interests.
§ 6-16-102 - School day -(c) A school district is deemed to have fulfilled the requirements of subsection (a) of this section if the planned instructional time in each school day does not average less than six (6) hours each day or thirty (30) hours each week	1	In order to support our efforts to personalize student learning and increase student achievement, we are requesting this waiver. Once a month, students will be dismissed from school at 1 p.m. Teachers and staff will remain in order to work on student individual learning plans, collaborate cross-curricula and to support through staff through targeted PD.



Council of Innovation

Minority at School 48.00%

Council Member Name	Representative Group	Minority	Position	Date Elected
Melinda Collier	teacher	N	member	1/3/2017
Cedric Hawkins	Principal	Y	Chair	1/3/2017
Jimmy Castielljo	teacher	Y	member	1/3/2017
Judy Yancey	teacher	N	member	1/3/2017
Cody Knowlton	teacher	N	member	1/3/2017
Cindy Ledbetter	community/ parent	N	member	1/3/2017
Kaleb Thurmond	student	Y	member	1/3/2017
Hagin Hord	student	N	member	1/3/2017
Brandi Shelton	community/parent	N	member	1/3/2017
Andrika Hicks	community/parent	Y	member	1/3/2017



Shared Leadership

Meeting Date	Meeting Purpose	No. of Teachers Present	No. of School Staff Present	No. of Parents Present	No. of Community Members Present	No. of Students Present	Meeting Outcome/Planned Next Steps
9/12/2016	Staff meeting	5	5	0	0	0	continue to research
10/10/2016	PTO	5	2	9	4	5	solicit feedback on innovation ideas
11/22/2016	Brainstorming	6	5	3	4	2	vision



Election Results

Number of certified and classified on staff:	30
Number of staff who voted:	25
Number of staff who voted for proposed Plan:	24
Number of staff who voted against the proposed plan:	0
Percentage of staff voting in favor of the proposed Plan of Innovation:	96



Professional Development Scope

Professional Development Plan Part 1

Date	Audience	Purpose of the Session
8/15/2016	teachers, administrators, & support staff	Project-based learning
1/3/2017	teachers, administrators, & support staff	Blended Learning
11/21/2016	teachers, administrators, & support staff	"what it looks like"
3/9/2017	teachers, administrators, & support staff	webinar- SPARK curriculum

Professional Development Plan Part 2

Date	Audience	Purpose of the Session
7/2/2017	teachers & admin	learning management system
6/1/2017	admin & counselor	scheduling
4/23/2017	admin & staff	Growth Mindset
8/13/2017	admin & staff	Tapping the Power of Personalized Learning by James Rickabaugh
4/21/2017	admin & staff	school visit- Pangburn

At Stuttgart Junior High School we began having discussions around what we think and believe about education and the students we serve. Out of that came the conviction that although we have many challenges we have a tremendous opportunity to better serve our students. We concluded that In order to better serve our students that we must personalize the learning. One of the greatest challenges that we have found and our data supports is the fact that many of our students are not personally invested in the learning process. Moreover, we found that this challenge is as a direct result of students not having much control over the classes that they were scheduled in. Therefore, we have decided to address this challenge by seeking a waiver from a number of our current required classes (Art, Music, PE, and Health). In seeking this waiver, we are not seeking to remove them altogether but rather to make these classes electives. Our thinking is that we feel and the data supports that by making these classes electives, those students in these classes would be those students that voluntarily signed up for them. This will result in less disciplinary infractions, increased instruction time and ultimately increase student achievement for all students.

To ensure that our students are competitive with other students across the state and the nation, we want to ensure that all of our students will have an opportunity to a STEM curriculum. The waiving of the aforementioned classes will afford us the opportunity to have all of our students scheduled in a STEM course through Project Lead the Way which is a pre-engineering program.

According to our data, we have some students who have been retained at some point in their school careers. We believe very strongly that this retention should not be permanent. Therefore, through this innovation plan, we want to give students a personalized plan that will

afford them to work to get caught up to their original grade. The surveys that we conducted with our students informed us that those students who have been retained said that they would like the opportunity to get caught up and would be willing to put the work in to get caught up.

In addition to student investment, we have found that this flexibility will afford us the opportunity to better support all of our students, both struggling and soaring. Our data also informs us that a great majority of our students are reading two and three levels beneath their present grade. We want to be able to better support these students by offering a reading class. In addition to that, research says that one of the best ways to improve student achievement is to increase instruction time tailored to the needs of the student. Through this innovation plan we would be able to extend the learning time for both those students who need acceleration and those students needing enrichment.

Finally, we have concluded that one of the most frustrating things that happens in education is to be asked to do something that we are not adequately supported in doing. At SJHS, we currently are fortunate to have productive professional learning communities. These PLC's are curricular oriented. In conversations with staff, we have found that there is a tremendous need to be able to expand on our current structure. There we are building within our structure the time so that we can expand our PLC's to include student support, cross-curricular as well as grade level opportunities. We feel very strongly that this will greatly enhance our staff capacity and sustainability. Also, we feel that this will ultimately result in improved achievement by all students.