

**DAC Break-out Groups Discussion**  
*Suggestions from the April 6 and May 6 meetings*

**Suggestions to improve learning conditions that enable every child to have full access to the instructional programs and to meet with success**

Professional Development

- Training of teachers on diverse ways students learn and engage
- Use existing staff more wisely to increase teacher training/mentoring

Assessment

- Reduce homework to reduce stress on students/families
- Reduce emphasis on grading and consider the elimination of grades
- Create more understanding of grades– (e.g, if disciplinary: tie punishment to additional work at school)
- Don't overly reduce grading on participation but weigh appropriately

Curriculum and Program Design

- Team Teaching – teachers specialize in a specific topic/area with deep collaboration
- Communication between teachers needs go up such as creating teams for teachers collaborating with defined groups of students
- More teacher-to-teacher dialogue about student learning
- Conduct more sharing of best-practices
- More project-based, multi-sensory learning
- Implement more *Flipped Classrooms* and doing practice in class so teachers can differentiate the learning
- Use “pull-out” program instead of the self-contained gifted program
- Opportunity – make high school classes available to all students (with some parameters to test in)
- Adaptable Curriculum – give teachers opportunity to make sure students are understanding topic
- Reviews thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade – involve teacher/parents/student to gauge development, success, and areas of need. This would give better insights to student.

**Parent Communication**

- Mandatory orientation for at the beginning of school year (revamp curriculum night)
- New parent orientation twice a year with include PTA, community partners in the all-district welcoming event
- Less paperwork