

UPPER PERKIOMEN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Education Center, 2229 E. Buck Road, Pennsburg PA 18073

Educational Programs and Services Committee

March 20, 2025

Chair: Emily McCormick

Ex-Officio: Melanie Cunningham, President

Members: JP Prego, Emily McCormick, Trina Schaarschmidt

Superintendent-Dr. Allyn Roche
Assistant Superintendent-Dr. Andrea Farina
Director of Special Education-Carol Giblin
Director of Technology-James Roth

Supervisor of Special Education-Amy Coyle
Supervisor of Special Education-Christine Campbell
Director of Curriculum and Instruction-Kimberly Bast
Curriculum Supervisor-Sarah Rothermel

Approval of February 20, 2025 EPS minutes.

Second Step Overview –

Tier 1 was approved as the social/emotional curriculum about 6 years ago, SEL competencies are in the compressive plan, and it is available for inspection to the public as the plan is being refreshed.

Helps to create a safe environment and that increases academic performance. K-5 units of study broken down into four main areas;

- Skills for Learning
- Empathy
- Emotional Management
- Problem Solving

The units provide teachers with instructional resources, activities for students to interact, principals get information for morning announcements and newsletters and conflict resolution information.

In 6th to 8th grades there are 4-5 units per grade level and have these topic overviews;

- Mindsets and Goals
- Developing a Positive Sense of Self
- Thoughts, Emotions and Decisions
- Managing Relationships and Social Conflicts

Goal setting is a process for all subjects and accepting and learning of yourself is critical at the middle school time period.

Parents can come and inspect material, and the lessons are linked in the board documents. Teachers have access to all lessons through second step and follow the format of the lessons. There are videos, teachers use materials on a case-by-case basis and what a teacher chooses to use is their choice. The structure of the lessons are followed. Lessons take 20-25 minutes depending on student discussions.

Confidence lesson was shown to the board via the screen about what their agency is, how to make their own decisions, what confidence means, how to build their own confidence, name a time how they built their own confidence using encouragement from past experiences.

Aligns with the common core state standards including core speaking and listening standards and links are being added to the websites for K-8 grades. Second Step is received as a partnership with Montgomery County and they do an assessment called

Decamini (looks at student behaviors and the ways they interact with peers, advocate for self and ask for help). This was part of the effort to address skills for bullying prevention, MTSS framework and implementation of PBIS.

K-5 Math Curriculum Resource Review –

Identified through the data we needed something more aligned to the PA core, support numeracy and problem-solving development in elementary mathematics, did benchmarking and looked at neighboring high districts and the resources they are using. Reviewed ed reports, went to local districts, reached out to the MCIU, got samples, had presentations and concluded with using I Ready Classroom Mathematics for next school year. K-5 resources are on display currently for 30 days and if approved by the board there will be professional development for the teachers for next school year.

This will replace Freckle for mathematics. I Ready is supportive and helpful, Cohesiveness of the program is there, the intervention piece works well and feeds into I Ready well.

Compliance Monitoring for Continual Improvement –

- Every six years monitoring happens.
- Meeting with the Bureau Advisor happened in August.
- Monitoring took place until November.
- Administrative interviews took place with each building.
- Onsite compliance was November 13th and 14th - Ten student files were reviewed and after reviewing it showed students are all making progress.
- Exit interviews were in January with the Bureau Advisor along with a PATTAN representative.
- February and March corrective action and next steps

These are the areas that need improvement plans;

- Least Restrictive Environment (students placed out of the district)
- Participation in PSSA and PASSA

Parent Engagement Sessions –

Virtual March 26th 5:30 to 7:00 PM - Understanding the IEP

April 29th 6:00 to 7:00, tentative - 1847 Financial

Comprehensive Plan Reminder –

Board Presentation/Adoption March 27, 2025

Language revisions were made.

Feedback time closed.

Fifteen respondents

The next EPS Committee meeting will be held on April 17, 2025.