Next Steps to Making Systems Exceptional

No Excuses University (NEU)

Culture of Universal Achievement

- □ Have every classroom adopt a college & refer to that class by the college name
- □ Develop a yearly college & career fair
- □ Make a plan to take specific grade levels on yearly field trips to college campuses
- □ Hold mandatory Parent Forums rolling out all of your college readiness plans and expectations as a school
- □ Establish Monday as a day where students and staff are encouraged to wear their school shirts & Friday as a day to wear college apparel
- □ Hang college flags & banners on every door in the school
- □ Place inspirational/aspirational quotes throughout the campus
- □ Declare your commitments publicly and market your school as one of high expectations for all students
- □ Create a B.H.A.G. (Big Hairy Audacious Goal) to endorse as a staff
- □ Make a list of excuses you've made & commit to fighting against them as a staff
- □ Decide upon one clear set of rules and a common language that align with specific character traits & model them to students
- □ Create one universal classroom management plan
- □ Block off 15 minutes a day for a morning meeting that educates & models expectations for success to students in every class

Collaboration

- □ Create a one page, exceptional system for collaboration based on 4 to 6 commitments of how staff will treat each other and work as professionals
- □ Establish routines of daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly collaboration for staff as well as leadership teams
- □ Devise a template for agendas based on action
- □ Begin each collaborative effort by celebrating successes/laughing with each other & end with action steps for the future
- □ Create a plan to practice candid collaboration as a staff

- □ Create an exceptional system that aligns standards at each grade level
- □ Generate a template for grade levels to use as they align their standards
- □ Schedule time for vertical articulation around standards
- □ Ensure that all staff members agree on what mastery of each standard looks like and how it will be taught
- □ Share standards daily with students in practical ways

Assessment

- □ Create an assessment team made up of representation at each grade level or department
- □ Determine which assessments you value and why
- □ Devise clear schedules to both deliver assessments as well as analyze them
- □ Implement a plan to develop individual goals for all students
- □ Make sure that every assessment is aligned to a specific way of involving students in the process

Data Management

- □ Create a database that is easily accessible to all staff
- □ Schedule at least three times a year to openly share data between the principal & individual teams
- □ Design templates that are deliberately arranged to convey data in a way that encourages action
- □ Post various data results throughout the school on a consistent basis
- □ Ensure that data is readily available for students and parents

Interventions

- □ Create an intervention support team packed with "doers" committed to results
- □ Design an intervention master schedule that creatively lowers the student to teacher ratio
- □ Shape routines that correlate the success of each intervention with a specific data point
- □ Develop interventions that deal with social & emotional challenges impeding academic success
- □ Establish a "community collaborative" that meets monthly to find ways to link organizations who want to give with families in need

Standards Alignment