



School Of Distinction Prospectus

December 4, 2018

What is a School of Distinction

- School where the majority of the students are high needs and there is no gap in performance.
- Performance has no gaps between subgroups
- Category 1 School
 - Top 10% achievement and/or growth



Problem:

- How do we create a model school that is able to reach a School of Distinction status?
- What are the core elements of the model school?
- What data needs to be collected to measure success?
- How do we insure the model is replicable?

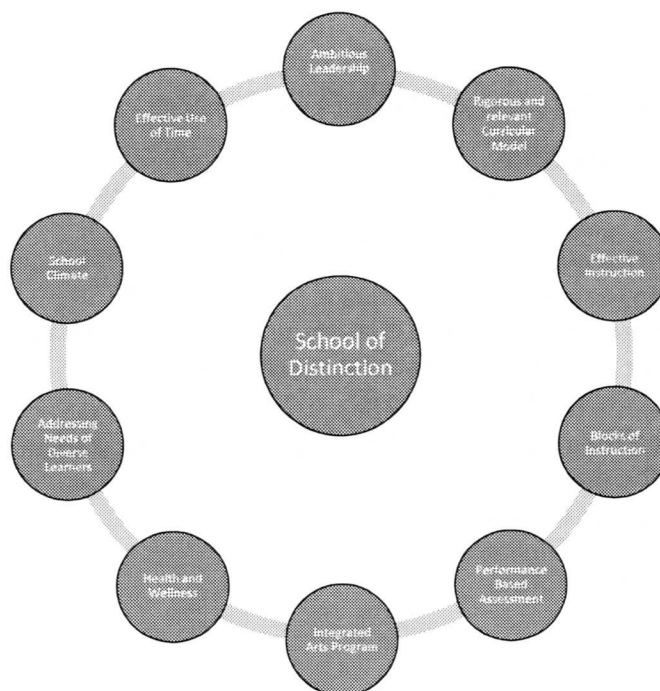


History

- Norwalk's first School of Distinction was Rowayton Elementary School.
- Norwalk Public Schools reviewed the changes made to allow Rowayton to achieve this status
- Norwalk's data shows that our schools can become "Schools of Distinction" by addressing high needs students and targeting growth in this area
- Norwalk has partners interested in investing in this model



Tenets and Elements of a School of Distinction



Tenets and Elements

Ambitious Leadership

- School-wide system of support for learning
- Instructional leadership to support change and to provide ongoing feedback
- School improvement planning

Rigorous and Relevant Curricular Model

- Alignment with CT Educational Standards
- Model Schools Unit Development

Culture of Professional Learning

- Shared teacher leadership
- Professional Learning Teams
- 12 days of additional professional development per year



Tenets and Elements

Effective Instruction

- Literacy model founded on integrating reading, writing, listening, speaking and viewing
- Readers' and writers' workshop
- Explicit early learning instruction using CK3LI
- Problem-based mathematics using Singapore math
- Inquiry and design-based STEM instruction aligned with the NGSS and ISTE
- Thinking Maps and SIOP to build critical thinking skills
- School-wide Enrichment Model

Coherent blocks of instruction focused on integration, application and differentiation

- 120 minutes of literacy
- 90 minutes of numeracy
- 60 minutes of STEM



Tenets and Elements

Performance-Based Assessment

- Complex tasks and performances that demonstrate student learning
- Continual use of feedback and criteria
- Incremental progress monitoring
- On-going use of data to improve student performance

Commitment to an Integrated Arts Program

- Kodaly music program

Student Health and Wellness

- President's Physical Fitness
- Social Emotional Learning based on CASEL Framework
- Social Worker Support

