



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PHILADELPHIA

School Improvement Meeting  
Avery D. Harrington School

*September 25, 2018*

**SYSTEM OF GREAT SCHOOLS**  
.....  
creating great schools close to where all children live



# Agenda

- Why we're here
- Details on the process
- Questions



## **Vision: All children have a great public school close to home**

- Some schools need more support so that children can have the learning opportunities they deserve.
- Harrington has been identified for additional funding and support to improve school quality faster.
- We want your feedback on school strengths, challenges, and ways to improve.



## To improve student outcomes, we believe...

- All students can learn and achieve
- There is a need for support and room for improvement
- Improvement is possible
- All stakeholders have a perspective that needs to be respected
- The work of school improvement is urgent and is a shared responsibility



# How do we understand how schools are performing and which schools need support?

Each school earns a School Progress Report (SPR) score from 0-100% and, based on their overall score, are assigned to one of four categories:

## ■ INTERVENE (0-24%)

Low performance; immediate assistance and attention needed

## ■ WATCH (25-49%)

Some areas of solid performance; more support needed to improve further

## ■ REINFORCE (50-74%)

Several areas of strength; targeted assistance would aid improvement

## ■ MODEL (75-100%)

High performance category; school is among best in city

Learn more about SPR here:

<https://www.philasd.org/performance/programsservices/school-progress-reports/>



# What makes up an SPR score?



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# Why is Harrington being considered for additional funding and support?

We're focusing on schools that meet three criteria.

1. A school has been in intervene status on the SPR for 3 years in a row
2. The school's average SPR from the last 3 years is 15% or less
3. A school is not part of any current major intervention effort (e.g. Acceleration, School Redesign)

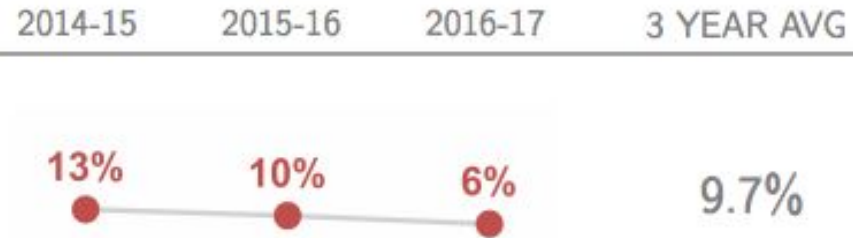
Note: Right now, we're using the most recently available SPR from the 2016-17 school year. 2017-18 SPR will also be considered in this process when it becomes available in January.



# Why is Harrington being considered for additional funding and support?

## SPR

**Avery D.  
Harrington  
School**







# What are the options for additional funding and support?

- (1) **Entering into the District's Acceleration Network**

  - ✓ Defined improvement model
  - ✓ Proven results
  - ✓ Common network supports
  - ✓ Keep and hire best staff
  
- (2) **Develop school created academic improvement plan**

  - ✓ Customized improvement model
  - ✓ Commitment to deeper planning
  - ✓ Uniting school vision
  - ✓ Strong leader and leadership team



## Important notes about the process

- Becoming a charter school is not an option.
- Closure is not an option.



# Timeline of what's next

## October - November

### Data gathering

- ✓ School quality review (SQR) led by Assistant Superintendent
- ✓ Family and community focus groups
- ✓ Feedback and findings meeting



## December - January

### Data review

- ✓ Input provided to Superintendent
- ✓ School teams identify root causes to major challenges



## mid January

### Recommendation

- ✓ Recommendation made after new SPR released



# What is a School Quality Review (SQR)?

- SQRs provide more information on your school's teaching and school climate
- SQRs will be led by Assistant Superintendents and include a team of
  - the principal and other school administrators
  - teacher(s)
  - members from Academics and Student Support Services offices
  - parent(s) or family member(s) on the SAC



## What is a focus group?

- Discussion leaders use questions to gather information on the strengths, challenges, and ways to improve the school
- Focus groups are between 10-15 people
- Focus groups are held in a small group setting so everyone's voice can be heard and everyone can share honestly



## Examples of focus group input

### **Parents mentioned friendly and dedicated teachers:**

*“I actually communicate with my children’s teachers daily. So I’m like, ‘this is homework, how’d he do last night, how did he do the day before... If you show that you are a concerned parent, they’ll work with you.”*

### **Parents discussed challenges with student safety:**

*“She [my wife] was very fearful for my daughter...Even to this day she’s looking at different options...I would hope this could become a school where you feel good about sending your kids...You feel as though they’re going to learn as well as just...being safe.”*



## Making recommendations

- We want input from our families, teachers, principals, and community members about school strengths, challenges, and ways to improve.
- Your feedback and data from the quality review will inform recommendations on the best way to improve academic outcomes.



## Ways you can be involved



Attend a focus group meeting

- October 10 at 8:45am
- October 16 at 5:00pm
- October 18 at 8:45am
- October 24 at 5:00pm



Share your thoughts and feedback anytime at

**[www.philasd.org/greatschools/investmentsandinterventions](http://www.philasd.org/greatschools/investmentsandinterventions)**



Stay up to date by visiting the SGS website and working with your SAC





## Our children's potential is limitless.

- Each school has unique strengths and challenges.
- The goal for all children and all schools is the same:

**to ensure that all children are able to learn  
and to succeed.**



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