



MINNEAPOLIS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Urban Education. Global Citizens.

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Dowling Urban Environmental Magnet
Dr. Lloyd Winfield
Principal

September 24, 2018

Dear Dowling Urban Environmental Magnet families,

We're already off to a great start here at Dowling. We have a strong foundation for learning and are committed to making sure all students succeed in our school.

This year, we're going to continue focusing on what makes us a fantastic school: putting students first, supporting our staff, and making sure our families have many opportunities to engage in their children's learning.

One way you can stay involved this school year is by helping us as we learn more about Minnesota's new system to support schools, which is called the North Star Excellence and Equity System. The attached letter contains more information about what this new system means for our school. It can get a little complicated, but basically it's saying we have an opportunity at Dowling to think deeply about how we serve each of our students and what we will do to make sure every one of them has the tools and support necessary to succeed. You can learn more at mpls.k12.mn.us/ESSA.

Together, we must work to make sure every child has a foundation that allows them to achieve their dreams. I look forward to your joining all of us at Dowling in this effort this school year—look forward to hearing more about opportunities to get involved and help us achieve our goals soon.

Thank you for your support and partnership. It's going to be an awesome school year!

Dr. Lloyd Winfield
Principal, Dowling Urban Environmental Magnet

DOWLING URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL MAGNET

Understanding our Designation under the North Star Accountability System

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

The **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** is the most recent re-authorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2015. ESSA requires states to develop a data-driven system for holding schools and districts accountable for providing a fair, equitable, and high-quality education to all students. Under ESSA, Minnesota established the **North Star Excellence and Equity System** to ensure *all schools are working well for all students*.

North Star Excellence and Equity System

The goal of this new system is to make sure schools are meeting the needs of each student they serve. With this system, some schools are being identified for support and improvement because they can use assistance in closing achievement gaps and improving academic outcomes for all students. Schools are being identified for support and improvement for the first time this school year, and the designation will last for three years.

Our School's Designation

Under the North Star accountability system, our school has been identified for: Targeted support and improvement.

We have been identified for this level of support and improvement because the following student groups at our school were found to be performing similarly to the lowest 5% of schools that receive Title I funding, based on all of the state's accountability measures:

- Students who receive special education services

Support & Improvement Process

Schools identified for support and improvement under North Star need to notify families and then engage families and school community stakeholders in:

- Completing a comprehensive needs assessment looking at the reasons why our school was identified
- Developing an improvement plan addressing the root causes behind low student achievement or gaps, which must include at least one strategy backed by rigorous research showing its effectiveness
- Implementing and monitoring the improvement plan once it goes into effect

Family & Community Engagement

We need our staff, families, and community members involved in our needs assessment and improvement plan development process. We invite you to get involved as we work to ensure all students are achieving high levels of success at our school. If you'd like to get involved, please reach out to us by calling 612.668.4410.