



On-Going Initiatives in BVSD

Tools of Inquiry for Equitable Schools (TIES): Every school in Colorado is expected to use a systematic, data-driven process to improve student learning. Our process is called TIES (Tools of Inquiry for Equitable Schools). We began using this improvement process district-wide in 2003-2004. We have determined the value of focusing on three major goals: Achievement (Increase student achievement in one or more content areas through curriculum and instruction that is rigorous and relevant); Equity (Narrow the achievement gap in all content areas); and Climate (Create and sustain a safe and positive learning environment that protects and respects the rights of all individuals). Each goal is measured by a specific index based on CSAP, non-CSAP assessments, ACT scores, the district graduation rate or climate surveys.

The TIES process has five steps of inquiry:

1. Assess our Current Reality--reviewing prior year's assessment and survey results
2. Why are we getting these results? -- determine the high leverage problems causing your challenge pattern to exist
3. Design a Theory of Action to address the high leverage problems
4. Develop SMART goals (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and timely)
5. Take Action -- Create a school improvement plan (SIP)

Every year schools and district level leadership go through the TIES process and create improvement plans. Progress on these plans is monitored at the school and district level on a quarterly basis by the school board. Individual school improvement plans can be found at each school; district improvement plans are available at this link ([put link to DIP](#)).

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