

Rationale for Preventionists

- The purpose of this position is to increase overall achievement as well as increase literacy rates.
- As a direct result of our journey to become a high performing Professional Learning Community a need for this position has arisen. As a Professional Learning Community we embrace 3 big ideas: Embrace learning as our fundamental purpose, Collaboration is crucial for our success, and maintain a laser-like focus on results. We also focus our work around four critical questions: 1) What is it that we want students to learn? 2) How will we know when they have learned it? 3) How will we respond when some students do not learn? And, 4) How will we respond when some students already know it?
- In an effort to answer questions 3 and 4 every school has created a minimum of 30 minutes daily for all students to participate in extended learning (intervention or enrichment). One major obstacle that has stood in the way of guaranteeing all students learn essential content and skills is the group sizes, especially with students who did not learn the content the first time through. These Preventionists will be able to rotate through grade levels working with students who need enrichment, thus freeing classroom teachers who have the most experience and expertise to intervene with students who have the most challenging learning needs.
- This is a prevention model where we address potential problem areas right away in an urgent and timely fashion. As we have heard from Mike Mattos, coauthor of the book, Pyramid Response to Intervention, “The best intervention is prevention.”
- This model is not new. It actually is borrowed from a national blue ribbon award winning school and one of the most celebrated elementary schools in the country, Boones Mill Elementary where Becky DuFour was principal. In an e-mail correspondence Becky says of the people who work in this position, they “often supervise and facilitate extension activities for students who are not currently in need of intervention (i.e. they monitor cooperative research projects and computer based exploration, lead novel discussions, monitor silent sustained reading and creative journal writing, conduct read alouds, supervise learning centers, etc.) so that certified teachers who have the greatest expertise and experience can intervene for the students who need the most support.” Their results speak for themselves.
- Since Boones Mill’s success many others have replicated this with great success. Our students deserve for us to replicate it as well.
- Our goal is to increase the number of students reading at grade level by 5% each year for the next four years. Having Preventionists in place would go a long way in helping us accomplish that goal.
- This model helps ensure that all students are pushed to achieve at high levels.
- This position is recommended in response to what building level leaders have requested and told us what they need.