

# The Tulsa Public Schools – Education Process

Tulsa Public Schools has a history of providing a quality education for students across the city of Tulsa. This development and delivery was captured several years ago in a prescribed process called the Tulsa Model. This model for educational success is an accumulation of research-based practices assembled to guide teachers and administrators in district expectations and the efforts exerted for continuous school improvement. With No Child Left Behind, and an ever evolving city, Tulsa Public Schools is obligated and committed to continually building a system and process of education that supports all children and learning communities by focusing on improved student achievement and the goal of performance excellence.



## Curriculum:

- Standard District Curriculum aligned to PASS
- Guided by the TPS pacing Calendars and Aligned Teaching Units (ATU's)
- Rigorous and relevant to students
- Grounded in real-world experiences
- Focus and connections for instruction provided by themes
- Natural connections made across subject areas

## Instructional Strategies:

- Variety of research-based practices
- Technology embedded within instruction
- Instructional decisions guided by frequent assessment
- Focus on teaching and learning beyond comprehension to application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation
- Inquiry-based approaches and problem-based learning
- Student interests used to provide emotional "hook" to learning

## Learning Environment:

- Welcoming, inclusive, nurturing, and respectful communication
- LIFESKILLS and community Guidelines practiced regularly
- Collaboration and cooperation
- High expectations for performance
- Students learn to mastery
- Physical space is healthy, aesthetically pleasing, and reflects what is being learned

## Parent & Community Support:

- Frequent communication with parents about student learning
- Mentoring programs
- Community members share about their jobs
- Students engaged in service learning in the community
- School and community partnerships enhance resources for the school

## Leadership/Citizenship & Community Responsibility:

- Emphasis on doing one's personal best
- Awareness of and respect for diversity
- Choice and responsible decision-making
- Goal setting
- Community service and leadership projects
- Growth of leadership skills for students and staff

## Professional Development:

- Establishment of professional learning communities at every school
- Brain research and application to learning
- Training in research-based instructional practices
- Leadership development at all levels of the organization
- Support staff training connected to the Tulsa Model
- Professional growth plans for all educators
- "hooks" to learning

## Continuous Improvement:

- Baldrige process used to develop, monitor, assess, and refine plans
- Regular reflection about teaching and ways to improve learning
- Staff participation in ongoing professional development
- Disaggregated data studied to improve instruction
- Peer coaching and teacher networks to support reflective practice and instructional improvement