



September 5, 2018

Dear [Personalized for each GAP Committee Member]

As we embark upon another school year, I want to take a moment to thank you for your notable contributions to Sarasota's children and families. Your contributions to our Closing the Achievement GAP committee(s) are invaluable. Please know that your knowledge base, passion and commitment to GAP efforts are applauded!

As a school district, we have seized the opportunity to close the achievement gap. We have 20 different GAP committees comprised of over 220 School Board employees and community partners serving on one or more the committees. Each committee is focused on a unique opportunity designed to close the gap. As a committee member you face tough challenges – yet you continue to boldly collaborate to improve the success rate of our most struggling learners.

We know that closing the achievement gap is a long-term goal that will require coordination and commitment over many school years. However, we are proud to report that there is evidence that we are moving in the right direction and positively impacting our students and families.

We know that lives will change because of the tremendous talent within our beautiful children and amazing staff. We are tremendously grateful for your work. You will receive additional updates on our GAP work throughout the 2018-2019 school year. However, please consider the simple Claims, Evidence & impact framework below, as we celebrate some of the many accomplishments of our GAP committees.

Claim (An assertion in the face of possible contradiction):

- Sarasota County will close the Achievement GAP!

Evidence (Something presented in support of the truth or accuracy of a claim):

- 220 Sarasota County School Board Employees & Community Partners committed to the work of closing the achievement gap!
- Over 20 GAP committees supporting the claim of closing the gap!

Impact (The power to bring about a result):

- 257 Title I second grade students identified for rigorous coursework.
 - Increased Summer Learning Academies to every Title 1 school.
 - 61 Identified for full-time gifted services.
- Provide waivers for STC tuition for Title 1 families (18-19 SY) along with transportation options.
- Every school-based administrator participated in Visible Learning PD.
 - 859 teachers participated in the Maximizing Math Mentality PD.
- Reading Recovery Instituted in all Elementary Schools with 35 teachers.
- Career Advisors helped 8th grade students develop Success Plans prior to entering HS.
- Every MS established a monitoring program for the most at-risk children.
- Created an attendance timeline report featuring concise communication to parents.

Thank you and I look forward to continued collaboration!

Sincerely,

Dr. Dawn Clayton
Supervisor PSS
Alternative Education, Drop-Out Prevention Monitoring,
Discipline & Chair of GAP Committees

Cc: Dr. Todd Bowden, Superintendent
Dr. Laura Kingsley, Chief Academic Officer
Bridget Ziegler, School Board Chair
Jane Goodwin, School Board Vice Chair
Shirley Brown, School Board Member
Eric Robinson, School Board Member
Caroline Zucker, School Board Member