



October 2018

Dear Manual High School Community,

I appreciate this opportunity to share with you Manual High School's *State of the School* that summarizes 2017-18 data and provides an overview of our areas of focus at Manual for the 2018-19 school year. We have updated our school's Unified Improvement Plan and our Professional Development plan in collaboration with our teaching staff and members of our Manual Council. We continue to be committed to our school mission of *Community, Culture and Innovation*. Manual is also committed to the Shared Values of the Denver Public Schools community: *Students First, Integrity, Collaboration, Equity, Accountability and Fun!*

Measuring Manual's Student Performance

School Performance Frameworks (SPF)

Although the state accountability system has been the primary measure of school performance in Colorado, this measure alone does not provide a full picture of a school's performance, as it only captures student performance at a given point in time. The Denver Public School's School Performance Framework (SPF) takes into account a broad range of measures and considers each school's data over two years. The SPF is a comprehensive annual review of school performance, which is presented in the form of a scorecard that measures multiple performance criteria including: growth, status, student engagement and satisfaction, enrollment and parent engagement & satisfaction. Based on the school's total number of points achieved across all of the indicators, the school is assigned an overall SPF rating of: **Distinguished**, **Meets Expectations**, **Accredited on Watch**, **Accredited on Priority Watch** or **Accredited on Probation**.

The 2017-18 SPF for Manual rated us as **Accredited on Priority Watch**. This rating is a combined score of the following criteria:

- How much is our school improving in preparing students for college and career: **Meets**
- How engaged and satisfied are students and families with our school: **Meets**
- How well is our school closing academic gaps: **Approaching**
- How much are students growing academically each year: **Approaching**
- Are students at our school performing at grade level: **Does Not Meet Expectations**
- How well prepared are students for college and career: **Does Not Meet Expectations**

It is important to note the following celebrations of ratings:

- **Exceeds** On-Track Graduation Rate Change;
- **Exceeds** Student Satisfaction Survey Positive Response;
- **Meets** ACCESS MGP (medium growth percentile);
- **Meets** State Assessment % at benchmark within school gaps English Learners *and* Free/Reduced Lunch;
- **Meets** Best of Graduation Rate-English Learners;
- **Meets** State Assessment MGP compared to similar schools- Literacy and Math;
- **Meets** State Assessment MGP State Comparison-Students with disabilities

It is also important to note student performance celebrations beyond the SPF:

- In 2016, only 37.5% of Manual seniors graduated remediation free in Math. In 2017, that number increased to 49.2%. Last year, 2018, **66.67%** of Manual students graduated remediation free in Math.
- 2017, 17.5% of Manual juniors met the SAT college readiness benchmark in Reading & Writing. Last year, 2018, **28%** of juniors met that same benchmark.
- In 2017 7.5% of Manual juniors met the SAT college readiness benchmark in Math. Last year, that number increased to **9.4%**.
- Last year, while the number of sophomores meeting the PSAT 10 benchmark stayed the same in Reading & Writing, the number of students meeting the math benchmark doubled (from 4 to 8).

Though we have much to celebrate, we will work to improve the ratings of **Does Not Meet** for the following:

- State Assessment % at benchmark Literacy, Science *and* Free/Reduced Lunch;
- State Assessment MGP-Literacy;
- CDE Best of Graduation Rate Change;
- CDE Drop Out Rate; and
- Attendance Rate.

Manual's Perspective on Accountability

The staff and Manual Council understand the importance of measures like SAT and the SPF in ensuring quality schools and in supporting schools in making data-driven decisions. However, this data is a small piece of the information we use to evaluate our success as a school. In addition to the achievement data provided by the state and the district, we have additional ways to measure success for our students including:

- **Innovation:** As one of the first Denver Public Schools to be approved for Innovation status with the state, Manual's avant-garde approach to education equips each student with their own Chrome Book. Every core classroom has been updated with 21st century tools and technology. Teachers are continuously trained in the innovative practices of

Personalized Learning for their classrooms. This allows for customization and differentiation in classroom lessons to meet the needs of our individual students.

- **Med School (or MedConnect)** at Manual: Through a partnership with Denver Health and St. Joseph's Hospital, Manual offers one of the school district's first biomedical pathways for high school students. Students have the opportunity to participate in health-based science classes, coaching and mentoring by professionals in health-related fields, and various hands-on learning opportunities. Each of these robust experiences gives our students a deeper insight into health career fields, while enhancing their soft skills needed to succeed in a professional work environment.
- **Early College** (concurrent enrollment): Manual students come from a variety of diverse backgrounds that are historically underrepresented in degreed or professional fields. Early College provides options to students who do not receive enough grants and scholarships to pay for four years of college. Currently, 40 students are concurrently enrolled in classes taught by University of Colorado at Denver (UCD) professors at Manual and 10 students are attending classes at Community College of Denver (CCD) to earn an Associated Degree with their high school diploma.

2018-19 Unified Improvement Plan Goals

As a result of extensive data analysis, staff identified two areas of focus for this year which include:

Goal 1: Attendance

- 45% of Manual students will meet the SPF Attendance threshold of 93% or better.

Goal 2: College and Career Readiness

- 85% of Manual seniors will graduate remediation free in English *and* Math.
- 60 Manual students will meet the college ready benchmark in English *and* math.
- 100% of Manual students will move one or more bands as measured by PSAT/SAT.

If you have any questions regarding the information presented, please feel free to contact me at lynn_heintzman@dpsk12.org. I am so proud to be the interim principal at Manual.

Sincerely,

Lynn Heintzman