

## Student Identity, Student Agency and Student Belonging in MS/K8 Schools

## Presentation to the Board August 17, 2022

### Building Identify, Agency and Belonging

Plans for 2022-23

- Building collective efficacy and a common understanding through Quality Improvement Teams (QITs)
- Creating a system-wide implementation of WEB (Where Everyone Belongs)
- Opening and supporting Wellness Centers in middle and K8 schools



## Quality Improvement Teams (QITs)

Principals as lead learners and facilitators



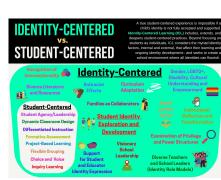
### Quality Improvement Teams (QITs)



#### **Student Identity**

- Identity and intersectionality
- Role of power and privilege
- Identity journeys
- Identity perspectives
- Identity-safe classrooms
- Identity-centered classrooms





### THE DIMENSIONS

dentity is complex and requires a lifetime of discovery. reation, analysis, and reflection. Though our brains are wired to simplify and categorize, awareness of the many limensions of identity-- in ourselves and in others-lilows us to lean into that complexity, seek inderstanding. exhibit emasthy, and oush for lustice.

#### IDENTITY ASPECTS

Each of our identities is made up of nomerous parts: gender, race, culture, serval orientation, name, religion, language, class, ability, familiat roles, profession, nationality, home, personality, interests, beliefs, and countiess more-- and we can have multiples of certain aspects.

These aspects define who we are, and each individual views certain aspects as more central to their identity than others. As society progresses, more and more identity aspects, hidden aspects, come to the fore.

#### -> IDENTITY JOURNEY

Our identities transform over time, as new aspects may appear, aspects may evolve, or aspects may fade. Our identity Journey is the ngoing story of this lifelong transformation -from the past, to the present, and into the future.

In other words, who we are is not fixed and changes to our identity have occurred and will continue to occur-- sometimes at our choosing and sometimes not.

#### IDENTITY PERSPECTIVES

Our identity is not only defined by ourselves (self-definition), but also by those around us-individuals, family, groups, or society (definition).

These perspectives/definitions may align or differ. Likewise, perspectives on the centrality of one's identity aspects may align or differ.

Who we see ourselves as and what we consider host central to who we are will likely be quite lifferent from how others perceive us.





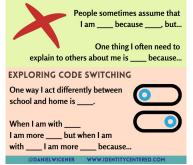
#### NORMALIZING DIFFERENCE

I sometimes feel different from others because I am \_\_\_\_\_.



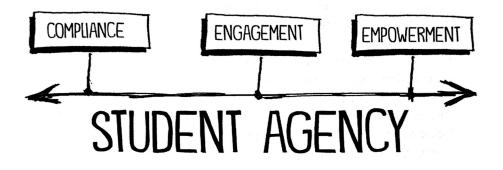
One way I am different from my (friends/parents/family/peers/community) is...

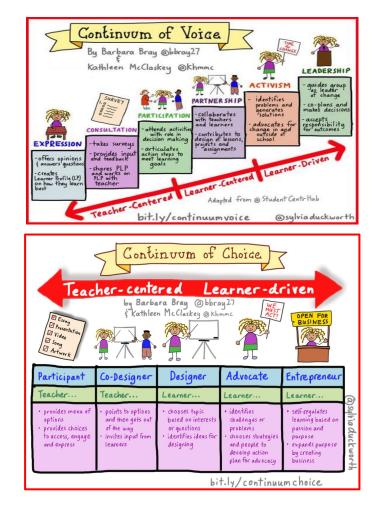
#### CONFRONTING ASSUMPTIONS



#### **Student Agency**

- Student empowerment
- Continuum of voice
- Continuum of choice
- Strategies in and out of classroom





### **Student Belonging**

- Fostering a sense of belonging in the classroom
- Leveraging student interest surveys
- Building partnerships with parents







# WEB (Where Everyone Belongs)

Lived experience at Washington MS Dr. Roshann Williams, Principal





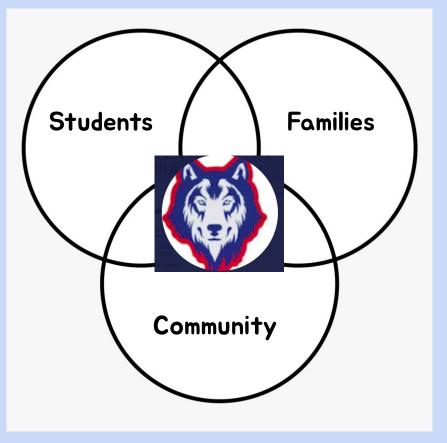






Pairing Leaders	Getting	Building	Increasing Sense	Building Student	Where EVERYONE
with Pups	Acquainted	Relationships	of Belonging	Agency	Belongs
WEB is a program where a group of (8-10) 6th graders will be paired with (2) 8th graders <u>throughout the</u> <u>year.</u>	WEB leaders meet their 6th Graders during 6th Grade orientation.	WEB leaders will <u>build relationships</u> by playing games and giving a tour to the 6th graders.	The games are <u>carefully designed</u> <u>to increase sense</u> <u>of belonging</u> . Group Development Model		WEB will provide a way for Wolf pups to <u>find their place</u> .

### **2nd Annual WMS Community Welcome Back Celebration**



Families will have the opportunity to learn more about our Washington community organizations.

15+ community organizations will be on campus to celebrate!







# Wellness Centers in Middle and K8 Schools

Building on the high school model and differentiating for middle



**Dr. Erin M. Simon** Assistant Superintendent, School Support Services school students



**Dr. Claudia Sosa-Valderrama** Director, Student Support Services

#### Middle School Wellness Center: Year One Goal

- Our goal is to support the student by strengthening student, family and staff social and emotional skills.
- We will be surveying our students, families and staff to learn more about each Middle Schools current culture and climate, social and emotional needs and most of all, **the naming of their Wellness Center**.
- Division of Student Support Services will provide the foundational framework with the essential services each center must provide and will support the team in executing all tasks and interventions
- Wellness Centers will be a safe and unique space, which will nurture the overall health of our students, families and staff...while providing a seamless connection between school and their local community agencies



#### Scope of Work

- LBUSD Division of Student Support Services is in the process of developing Student Wellness Centers within 21 LBUSD Middle Schools
- The Wellness Centers will have either one full time district Social Worker or share with another school. *Twelve (12) Social Workers total.*
- LBUSD Lead District Social Worker/Program Specialist, Susana Cortes will be the supervisor of record for each social worker
- The Division of Student Support Services is developing the foundational framework, as well as support the implementation of the wellness centers goals by providing general oversight and
  professional development for staff



### **Project Timeline**

Activity	Description	By:
Develop Middle School (MS) Framework	Framework will include all phases of development, expectations and plan of support/monitoring	June 30, 2022
Staffing	Hire 12 Social Workers	August 1, 2022
Site Visits	Visit all sites to assess available space. Meet with site administration to discuss purpose and vision of center	August 30, 2022
Order Furnishings	Assess and modify as necessary.	July-August 2022
Site-Based Team Meeting	Create Introduction/feedback opportunity for centers foundational framework	September 2022
Staff Orientation	Create initial training module for Center staff.	August -September 2022
Opening of MS Wellness Centers	Service for students/families begins	October 2022

MS K8

#### Vision of Middle School Wellness Centers

- The vision is to provide a range of resources and services to support students and families in meeting the challenges of pre-adolescence through prevention, early-intervention, and education, in a safe place at school. *Not a crisis center...*
- Wellness Centers are a powerful investment for our schools and local communities
- The Wellness Centers will empower our students and support our families in learning how to manage their social, emotional and physical health while striving to support all areas of their lives that may impact their academic potential.
- The Wellness Centers will also support school staff by providing tools to further understand and motivate students to thrive in the classroom and beyond.
- The Wellness Centers provide free, confidential services while connecting students, families and staff to vital community resources.



### Middle School Wellness Center Model

The Center will provide, (but not limited to) the following interventions and supportive services:

- Short Term Counseling Services (Individual/Group) by appointment
- Family Educational Workshops/Family Support Groups
- Opportunities for community building through service/projects
- Classroom Presentations
- Faculty Professional Development and Workshops/Staff Consultations
- Student and Family Resources & Case Management
- Special Interest Activities (Art, Mindfulness, Meditation, Yoga)
- Basic Needs Closet (Uniforms/Toiletries/School Supplies)/Family Food Insecurity Pantry
- Community & Internal Resource Coordination (FRC, SBMH)

Coordination with other school programming and initiatives (clubs and school resources) MC