

# Hamilton High School

## Hamilton School District, Sussex, Wisconsin

**Location type:** Large suburb

**District enrollment:** 4,685 students

**School enrollment:** 1,405 students

**Percentage of students at school eligible for free and reduced price meals:** 11

### Key Takeaways

Hamilton High School participated in the OECD Test for Schools for the first time in 2014 in order to measure its students' progress against international benchmarks. While the results highlighted positive performance in certain areas, they also indicated a need to focus on further developing students' critical thinking skills, strengthening teacher-student relations, and enhancing students' instrumental motivation.

### Actions Taken

- ✔ Building off of the OECD Test for Schools student survey data about teacher-student relations, the Hamilton faculty members are strengthening their ability to engage and empower students so that they have greater motivation to learn. For example, students throughout the district are now expected to set goals in each of their courses. Students are taught how to set goals using the SMART goal process during their resource period. Teachers assist students in monitoring their goals throughout the semester.
- ✔ Further, to help raise achievement for all students, teachers are working on strategies to better differentiate instruction. Each student completes a learner profile. Teachers utilize this information to better understand how students in their classes learn.
- ✔ Professional development has been provided for teachers on text complexity, text dependent questioning, and vocabulary instruction. This professional development assists teachers as they develop Student Learning Objectives (SLOs). Departments are working to link department plans with literacy goals. For example, the math department is developing common assessments that reinforce mathematical vocabulary. Last, teachers have participated in various book studies focused on literacy skills in the classroom.
- ✔ The district participated in a pilot during the 2014-2015 school year that introduced a program (Brainology/MindSet) founded on the work of Carol Dweck that helps students develop a growth mindset, including self-efficacy and motivation. In-service opportunities were available this fall that reinforced the growth mindset philosophies.
- ✔ In 2014, Hamilton participated in a Wisconsin regional convening as well as the Global Learning Network's 2014 Convening of World-Leading Schools. Participation in these activities allows attendees to dig deeper into their OECD Test for Schools results and share best practices with peers.

***Those wishing to learn more about the practices at Hamilton High School may visit the school's website [here](#).***