

## ENHANCING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- *As funding becomes increasingly constrained, it becomes even more important to make sure that we use the best strategies to achieve success with each of our students early and consistently.*
- *We need to look for innovative ways to engage our students more completely and to then teach more effectively.*
- *We need to ensure that teachers and students have ready access to the tools and assistance that will help them teach using a variety of approaches to reach children with a variety of learning styles.*
  - *Both for enrichment and remediation*
  - *With a focus on tools that have been proven to be engaging and effective for students with targeted academic needs*
  - *Requires central office support to identify appropriate learning tools*
  - *Requires an infrastructure that facilitates easy sharing across the district of teacher reviews and recommendations concerning available learning tools*
- *Examples of potential innovative teaching strategies include:*
  - *Making curriculum material more explicitly relevant to topics of interest to our students and our nation*
    - *Enhances motivation*
    - *Provides a framework around which knowledge is better retained*
    - *Provides a launching pad from which students can better begin to pursue their passions*
    - *Should include potential expanded availability of class sections in middle school and high school that focus on challenging, topical themes*
      - *To provide opportunity for growth for advanced students*
      - *To provide motivated, capable, but perhaps less accomplished students with opportunity to go beyond standard curriculum in areas of interest*
    - *Should include potential expansion of our high school Career & Technical Education offerings as a vehicle to teach core academic concepts, for those interested in college as well as those who are not*
  - *Incorporating music, motion, song, and visual arts into the teaching of core academic subjects (e.g. Learning a mnemonic song that summarizes a math rule) to better reach those who learn best through more artistic or kinetic aptitudes*

- *Providing students with access to high quality distance learning alternatives—particularly when those alternatives include teacher interaction*
- *In addition, we need to expand our links with the community to encourage community-based tutoring and support, including*
  - *University-based*
  - *Faith-based*
  - *Community-service organizations*
  - *Business-based internships*