



August 5, 2015

### **Districts 67 and 219 Will Partner on Classrooms First Initiative**

Skokie and Morton Grove, IL -- Golf School District 67 (D67) is joining the Classrooms First partnership. The D219 Board of Education approved the intergovernmental agreement at its August 4 meeting, following approval of the agreement by the D67 Board of Education at its July 30 meeting. The Classrooms First partnership will provide all D67 families with a consistent, family-friendly school experience from the time a child enters kindergarten to the day she graduates high school, and the resulting articulation between the elementary and high school districts will ensure that she will be ready for college.

Under Classrooms First, the high school and elementary districts will work together closely to make sure that every student has learned key, specific academic concepts at the appropriate grade level, before moving on to the next grade. Teachers will help students monitor their individual progress so they, and their parents, know if they are on track to succeed. If not, specific interventions will be implemented to help the students achieve the targeted outcomes.

“Golf School District 67 is thrilled to join District 219 as a partner in the Classrooms First Initiative,” said D67 Superintendent Beth Flores. “This is a wonderful opportunity for our school community and stakeholders but most of all for our students. We look forward to embarking in the collaborative work with teachers and administrators to plan educational experiences for our students that will prepare them for high school, college and careers, and a successful future.”

Goals of the Classrooms First initiative include focusing on literacy and on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) as a distinct part of elementary and secondary curricula, aligning curricula between the elementary and high school district, creating operational efficiencies, providing increased access to educational infrastructure to the elementary school district, establishing a uniform system of curricular targets and accountability, and increasing high school and college readiness.

“The Classrooms First initiative will help both districts achieve their shared goals for student achievement,” said D67 Board of Education President Richard Toth. “District 67 will benefit from a renewed focus on literacy and STEM in our elementary school curriculum.”

“We welcome our first Niles North sender school district into Classrooms First,” said D219 Superintendent Nanciann Gatta. “We are excited to have new collaborators at the table as we seek to create world-class opportunities for the students in our township.”

D219 entered into a Classrooms First agreement with Skokie/Morton Grove Elementary School District 69 in August 2014. D69 students attend Niles West.

Please go to <http://www.classrooms1st.org> to learn more about this partnership and its benefits for students.

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For more information call Jim Szczepaniak, Director of Strategic Partnerships & Community Relations, District 219, at 847-626-3958.