As we turn the page on the past and move forward together into the 2019-20 school year, I am honored to serve as the Superintendent of Community School District 23. We are in a unique position to provide every scholar with multiple Competitive Edge opportunities and to partner with families and community stakeholders to maximize impact. As I sit at the computer typing, John Kabat-Zinn’s quote comes to mind: “Like it or not, this moment is all we really have to work with”. I call upon each of you to make this year your moment!

**Improve Academic Outcomes for Students:** By April 2020, District 23 will engage in learning series that will support leaders and families in how to accelerate learning for the success of students. The professional learning series will include opportunities for exposure, action planning, data tracking via assessments; systems such as OORS, and parental engagement. The learning series will be divided into nine sessions, four in the fall and five in the spring. Accountability documents such as agendas, learning series materials, and attendance sign-in sheets will be collected. Also, data analysis of benchmark assessments will be reviewed. This goal is expected to increase achievement in Math performance by 10%, and increase professional learning opportunities by 50%.

**Strengthen Social-emotional Learning and Culturally Responsive School Environments:** By April 2020, District 23 will create sustainability by working to enhance its community equity practices and ensuring all students are afforded the supports necessary for achievement. All schools will be provided district statistical data that will substantiate an understanding of initiatives and areas of foci. Each school community will be required to have a diverse team of key constituents that collaborate and engage in culturally responsive sustainable conversations. Artifacts will be reviewed during PPO visits. Accountability documents will include meeting agendas and work artifacts, attendance logs, and evidence of impact points of progression. This goal is expected to increase positive responses in the area of supportive environment on district survey by 10%.

**Develop Leaders:** By April 2020, all leaders will be expected to evaluate supports in place, and RTI planning to meet the needs of individual students. Leaders will be provided feedback and questions for consideration in accordance with their RTI planning at least three times throughout the year. The expectation is that RTI planning encompasses the Advance Literacy initiative; focusing on at least one of the three priorities set by the Chancellor. Instructional leadership meetings that will focus on the RTI planning will occur in October 2019 and February 2020. This goal is expected to increase achievement in ELA and Math performance by 10%.