



Teacher Clarity, Year 3

From Visible to Understood

Board Update · Monday, September 28, 2026

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What Is Teacher Clarity?

In every lesson, every student should be able to answer three questions.

1

What am I learning?

Learning Intention

2

Why does it matter?

Relevance

3

How will I know I've got it?

Success Criteria

0.75

effect size

Why it matters: In John Hattie's Visible Learning research, teacher clarity has an effect size of about 0.75, nearly double the 0.40 that represents a typical year of growth.

For our kids: Students can't take Ownership with Growth of learning they can't see.



Year 3: We Listened, Then Narrowed

2026–27 is a proficiency year: depth, not more.

2024–25 Foundation

2025–26 Making Learning Visible

2026–27 Proficiency

What staff told us in June 2026	What we changed for 2026–27
“Slow down. Master it before adding anything new.”	Declared a proficiency year: no new layers added
Newer staff felt overwhelmed by the pace	A Teacher Clarity planning template and focused August PD for every teacher
Students don’t yet see the relevance	Walkthroughs now include short student interviews
Exit tickets and lesson closure were hard to sustain	Closure and exit tickets became a named focus cycle



How We Measure It

Every walkthrough uses the same tool, scale, and student questions.

Seven components, each scored 1–4

1
Beginning

2
Developing

3
Proficient

4
Exemplary

Learning Intentions · Success Criteria · Student Engagement · Checks for Understanding · Clarity in Instruction · Assessment & Feedback · Planning

Focus cycles this year

NOW

Cycle 1: Making Success Visible
Intentions and criteria posted, stated, and student-friendly

NEXT

Cycle 2: Success Criteria as a Roadmap
Students use criteria during the lesson

THEN

Cycle 3: Close with Evidence
Reflection, exit tickets, and feedback tied to criteria

NEW: Every visit, we ask two students...

“What are you learning today?”

“How will you know you did it well?”

“Why does this matter?”



Early Results: Nearly a Full Point of Growth

16 walkthroughs, September 2–22, 2026 · school average on the 1–4 scale

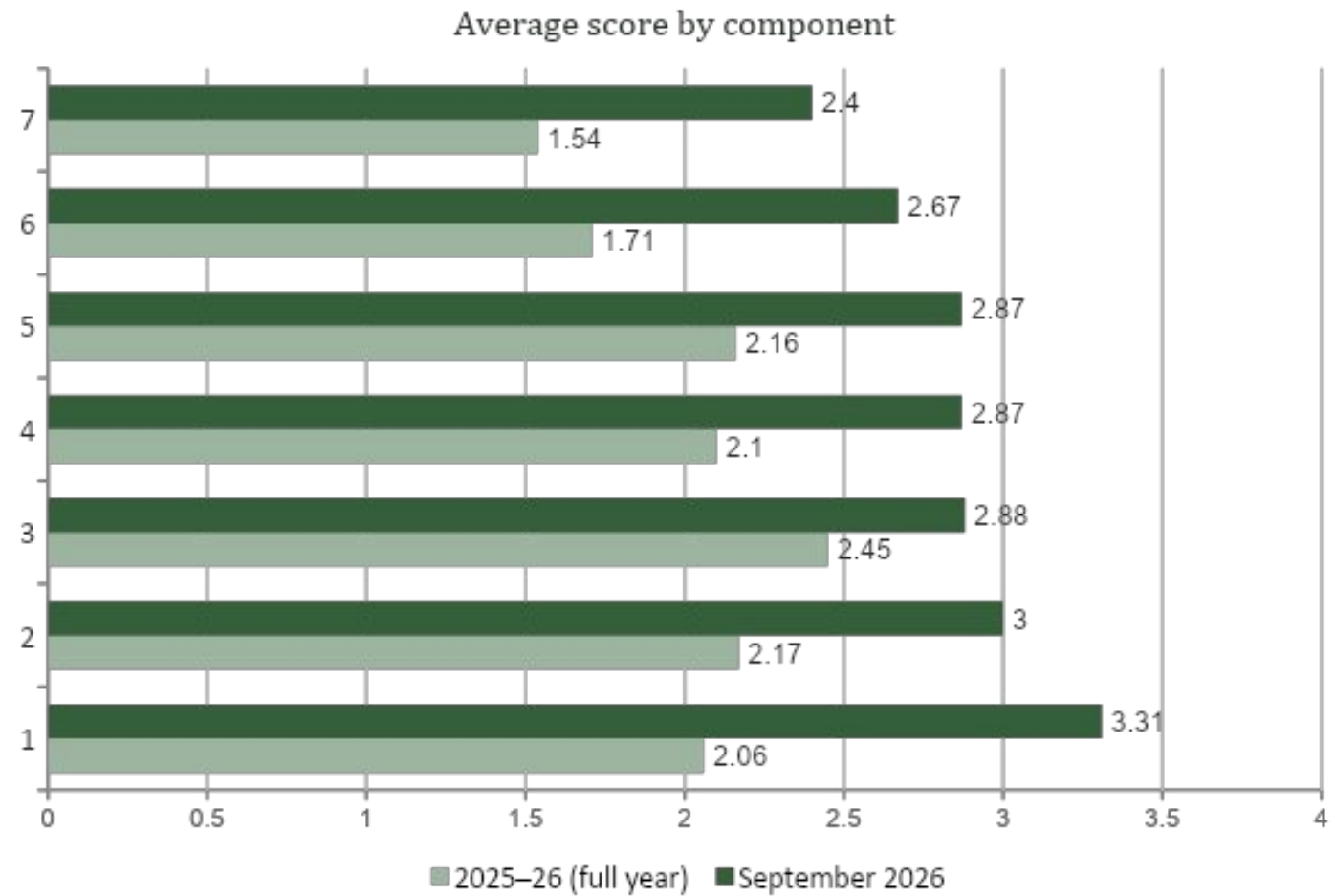
1.93 → 2.89

Fall 2025 average → September 2026 average

7 of 16 classrooms already at 3.0 or higher

Goal: 3.0 school average
by Spring walkthroughs

The tool was refined for 2026–27 and different classrooms were visited, so we read this as a strong early signal, not a final result.





What Students Are Telling Us

Students know what they’re learning. Next, they need to know how they’ll know they’ve got it.

11 of 14

“What are you learning today?”

could answer fully

2 of 13

“How will you know you did it well?”

could answer fully

3 of 13

“Why does this matter?”

could answer fully

In their own words

“We are learning the 5Ws to help us when we are older and have to write essays.”

3rd grade reading

Map reading matters “for real life scenarios such as hunting.”

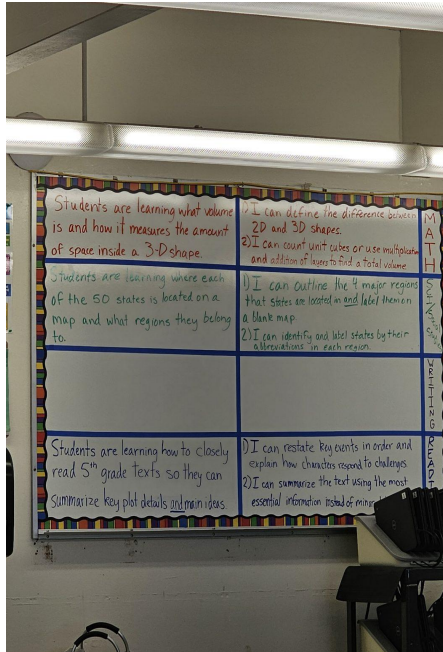
6th grade geography

Students tied an algebra patterns problem to planning their own rodeo banquet.

9th grade Algebra

Clarity Across MMK: Elementary & Specialists

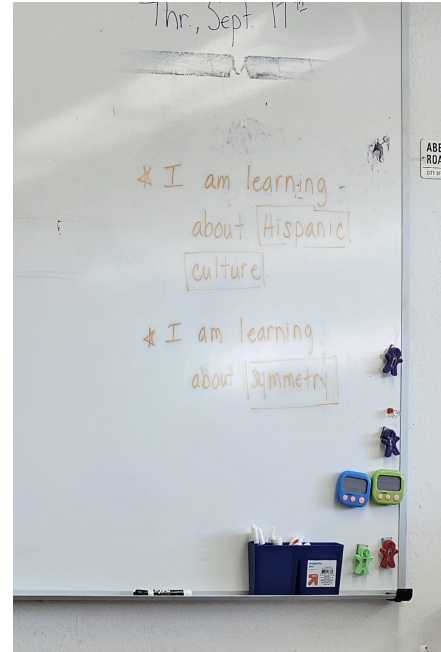
Photos from walkthroughs, September 2026



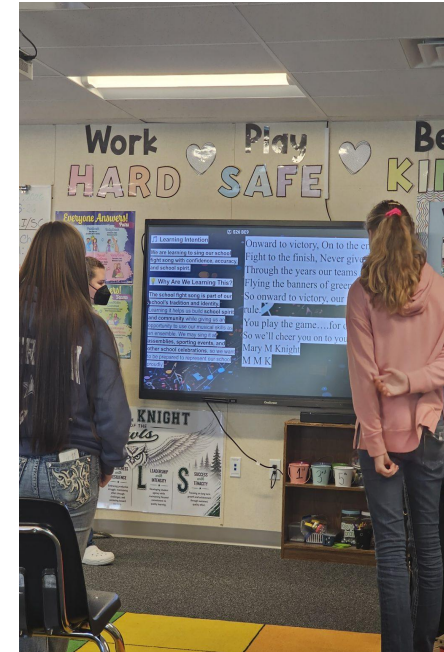
5th Grade • Ms. Ferguson
Intention + criteria for every subject



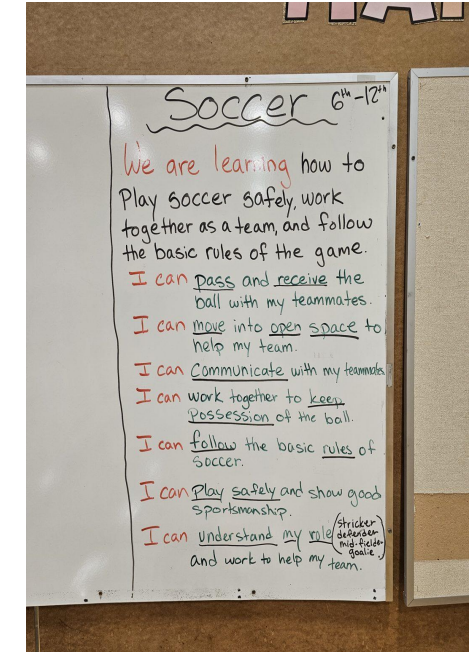
Special Education • Ms. Heidt
Individual goals as "I can" steps



Library • Mr. LaDage
Intentions tied to Hispanic Heritage Month



Choir • Mrs. Chambless
Intention and "why" on screen while singing

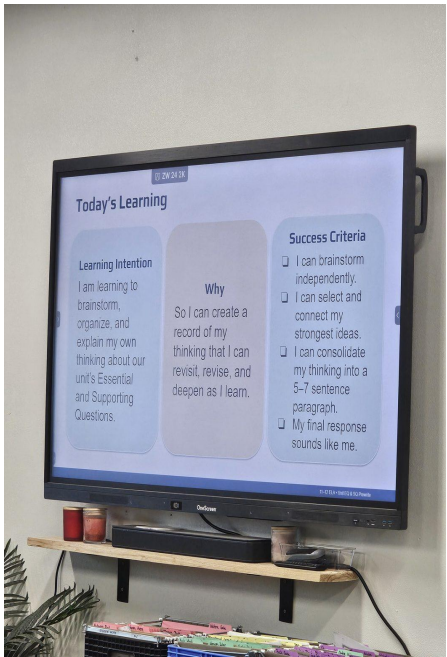


PE 6-12 • Mr. Kerr & Mrs. Chambless
Seven "I can" steps for soccer

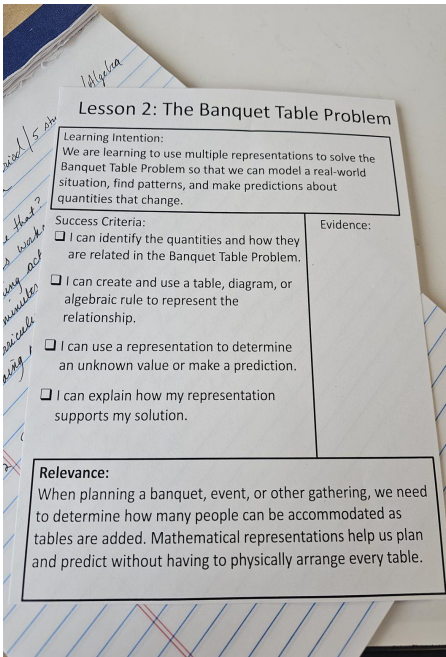
Same language in every setting, from the 5th grade whiteboard to the gym.

Clarity Across MMK: Secondary & CTE

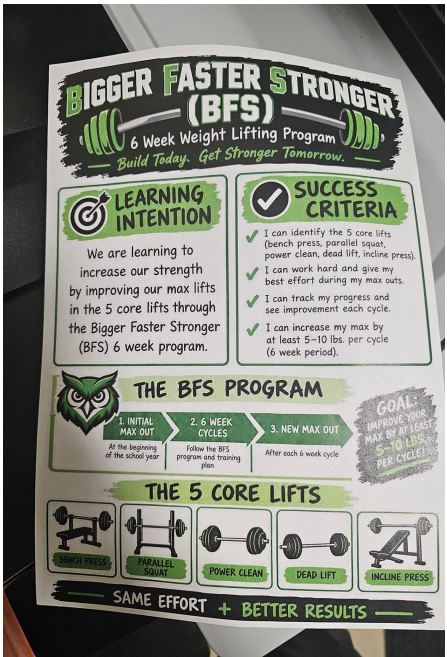
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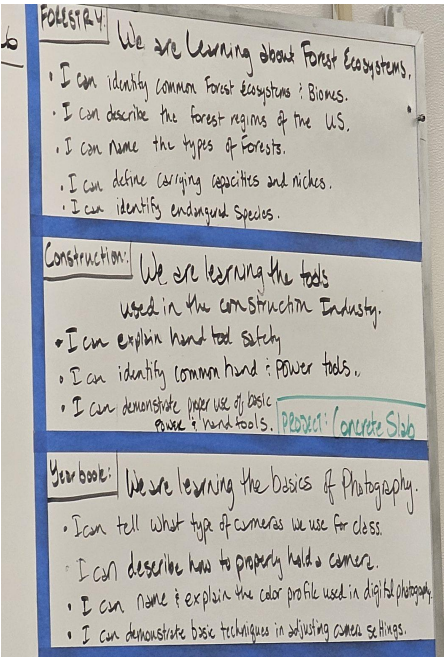
11–12 ELA • Mrs. Barratt
Intention, why, and checkable criteria



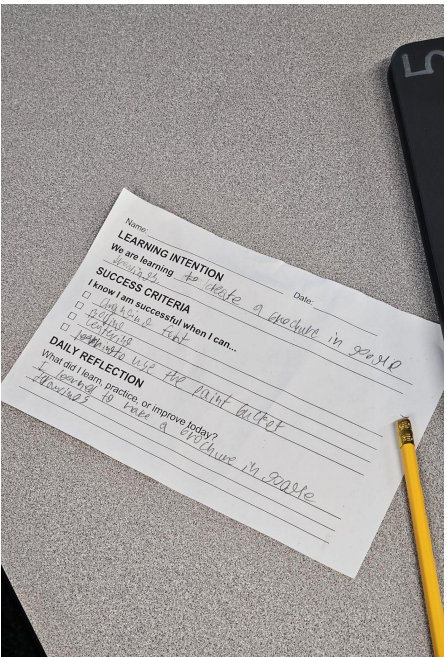
Algebra • Mrs. Bingham
Lesson guide with space for student evidence



Weight Training • Mr. Kerr
Measurable goal: +5–10 lbs per cycle



CTE • Mrs. Cole
Forestry, Construction, and Yearbook side by side



CTE • Mr. Johannes
A student's own daily reflection slip

Success criteria are becoming concrete, measurable, and owned by students.



Where We're Headed

Goal: a school average of 3.0 or higher by Spring walkthroughs



Cycle 2: Success Criteria as a Roadmap

Help students use criteria during the lesson so they can answer “How will I know?”

PLC time on the work

Teams build and test success criteria and exit tickets together, as staff asked for in June.

Keep listening to students

Keep interviewing students on every visit and report whether more can explain how they’ll know.



When students know what they're learning, and how they'll know they've got it, they take ownership of their growth.

Thank you to our staff for doing this work with intention.