



Brenda Scott Academy for Theatre Arts

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Principal – Willie Brewster
Assistant Principal – Kimberly Pierce



January 11, 2021

Dear MACUL Innovative District Award Committee:

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of Detroit Public School Community District's (DPSCD) application for the MACUL Innovative District Award.

As a large elementary-middle school, Branda Scott served as a Connected Futures deployment site during Summer 2020. My staff came together to deploy over 600 devices to students.

Due to these devices, Brenda Scott students have been able to connect to our online learning platform and their teachers, and families have been able to for parent-teacher conferences. The built-in access to internet has also been valuable as a lack of internet has historically been an issue for District families.

The District's Technology and Family Resource Hubs have been one of the highlights of the District's response to Covid-19. It serves as a one-stop shop for accessing resources, so families don't have to run here and there for what they need. If families need one, they can access a loaner device, so their student's learning won't be interrupted during laptop repairs. The hubs have also been convenient for teachers because staff can also get overwhelmed with the technology. The hours for the hubs are flexible, and they work for working families to get what they need for learning. The hubs also have the indirect impact of relieving our front office staff like clericals. They're helping us to work more efficiently, which is important at a time when there feels like there's even more to do to serve our families well.

Now we have the time to look into best practices for student learning, whether online or face-to-face. We can think about how to diversify student groupings, how to provide support personnel with access to classrooms without disrupting learning, and how to provide access to people like tutors or special guests.

Connected Futures and the Technology and Family Resource Hubs have eliminated the barriers in the technology gap that many families faced in the beginning of the pandemic. These spaces have created opportunities that wouldn't have been there if we had shifted to online learning with no supports. We would have lost our student and family engagement. District families wouldn't have had what they needed to do the tasks for class.

As a principal who served as the lead for a deployment site, I know the amount of work it took to execute Connected Futures and the hubs. I also see the positive impact that these are having on my students every day. The District's innovative and responsive efforts deserve to be recognized.

Sincerely,

Willie Brewster

Principal

Brenda Scott Elementary School

Detroit Public Schools Community District School Principal