

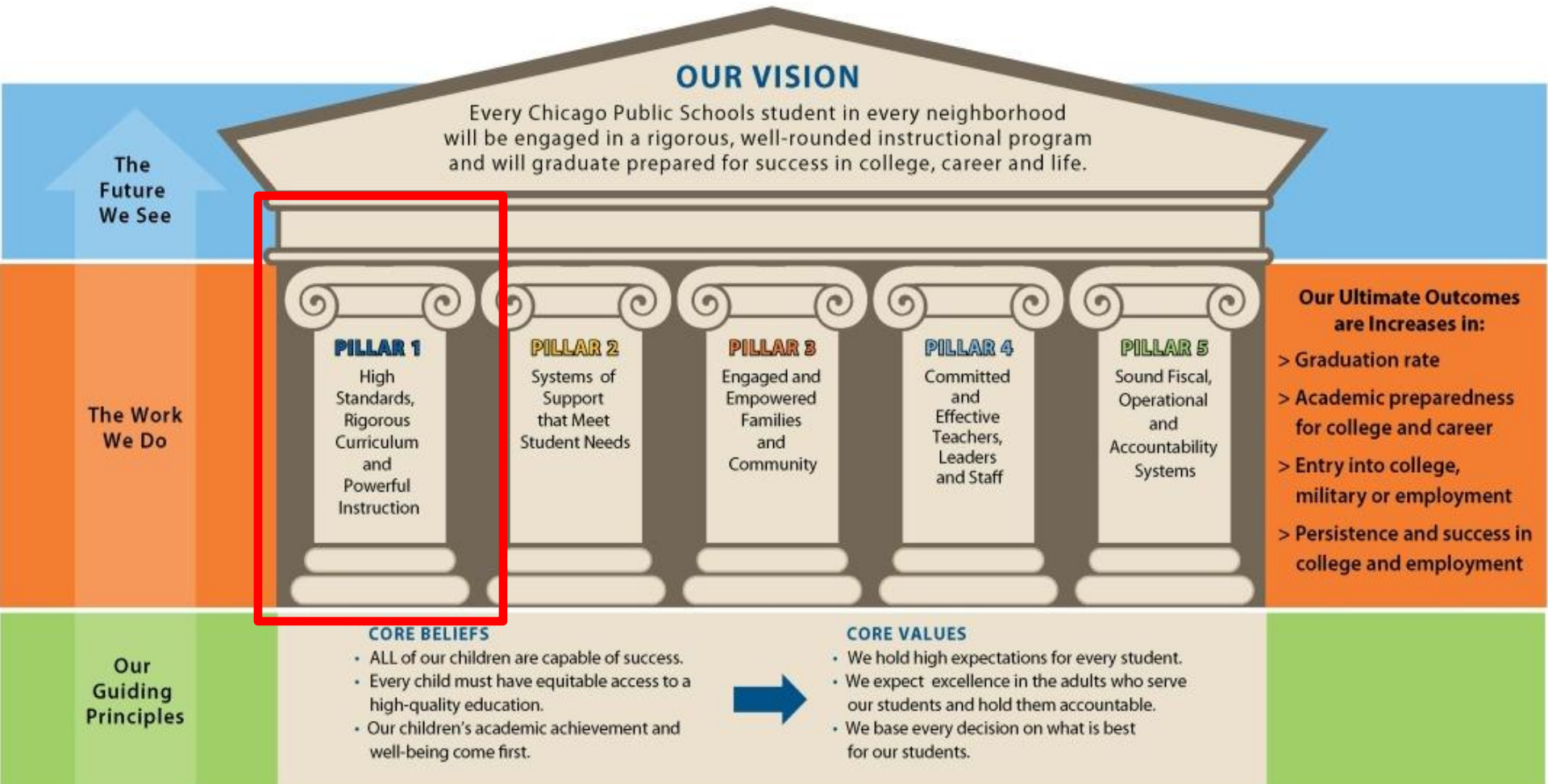
Chicago Public Schools: *Interdisciplinary African and African American Studies*

Barbara Byrd-Bennett
Chief Executive Officer

Annette Gurley
Chief Officer, Teaching and Learning

December 2013

The Next Generation: Chicago's Children – Our Framework for Success



Interdisciplinary African and African American Studies: Description

- The CPS *Interdisciplinary African and African American Studies* curriculum is....
 - designed to integrate *African and African American Studies* across all core disciplines over the course of the academic year.
 - a customized curriculum aligned to:
 - individual CPS discipline content frameworks and guides
 - Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

- **HB 2859... “every public elementary school and high school in Illinois include in its curriculum a unit of instruction studying the events of Black History...”**

Interdisciplinary African and African American Studies: Description

- The CPS *Interdisciplinary African and African American Studies* guides are....
 - designed to serve as a MODEL to be used by teachers to develop similar units of study that address African and African American contributions as well as the other cultures that are a part of our district, city, state, nation, and the world.

Interdisciplinary African and African American Studies: Theme and Essential Questions

- The CPS *Interdisciplinary African and African American Studies* guides are driven by....
 - Three Universal Themes - Culture, Dignity, and Identity,
and
 - Three Essential Questions
 - How do culture and identity influence who we are?
 - How do time, culture and history influence the works of arts and/or the advancement of science and technology?
 - What can I do to impact my community?

Interdisciplinary African and African American Studies: Components

- The CPS *Interdisciplinary African and African American Studies* curriculum consists of three core components:
 - An Interdisciplinary Matrix for Literacy, Social Science, Math, Science, Arts and Health, Wellness and Physical Education for grades (K-10)
 - Year-long Content Scopes for each discipline(K-10)
 - Unit Plans and Launch Lessons for each discipline(K-10)
- All of these materials align to the Common Core State Standards and to the CPS discipline frameworks and guides provided by each discipline.

Interdisciplinary African and African American Studies: Matrix

Matrix

INTERDISCIPLINARY AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES MATRIX Theme: Culture, Dignity, and Identity	
CONCEPT	
Everything Out of Africa <i>The impact and legacies of Early African peoples, cultures, and kingdoms</i>	
6 th Grade	LITERACY & SOCIAL SCIENCE Everything Out of Africa Investigating and researching the ancient kingdoms of Africa, their intellectual influences and relationships to the development of a global culture through fiction and nonfiction texts.
	MATHEMATICS Everything Out of Africa Investigating and researching ancient African maps and cities through the use of ratios and geometry.
	SCIENCE Everything Out of Africa Investigating and researching the history of planet Earth and the origin of human life in Africa.
	PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ HEALTH Everything Out of Africa Investigating, analyzing, researching, and performing traditional African dances.
	ARTS Everything Out of Africa Investigating and researching the art and music of ancient African cultures.

Provides a high-level description of the suggested topics/themes that each grade and discipline can cover across the year

- Is designed to ensure that the course content is presented in a progressively more rigorous fashion across grade bands (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-10) – from exploring to analyzing and researching.
- Is aligned to the Common Core State Standards.

Interdisciplinary African and African American Studies: Units/ Lessons

Sample Units of Study and Launch Lessons

SOCIAL SCIENCE	
6 th Grade Interdisciplinary African and African American Studies Unit Plan	
THEME:	
CONCEPT:	
CONTENT TOPIC:	
UNIT TITLE:	
Unit Description:	
Length of Unit: 5 Weeks	
Enduring Understandings	
Essential Questions	Guiding Essential Questions: II How does culture and identity influence who we are? III How do time, culture and history influence works of arts and/or the advancement of science and technology? III) What can I do to impact my community?
Common Core Standards	Reading RH, RI, Writing WHST, WHST, WHST, Speaking and Listening SL.6.1, SL.6.2, SL.6.4, SL.6.5.
Cognitive Skills	Executive functions + Thinking skills +
Content	Building Knowledge Through Texts

Each discipline will have detailed sample unit plans and launch lessons that directly support the matrix and respective discipline and grade-level scopes.

The launch lessons provided demonstrate how the suggested unit plans can be introduced to the students.

Includes:

- Alignment to respective scope
- Discipline and/or Common Core Standards alignment
- Suggested Resources
- Suggested Activities

Interdisciplinary African and African American Studies: Outcomes

- Present course content that goes beyond the traditional topics of slavery and Civil Rights
- Examine the contributions of numerous, unsung local individuals of African and African American heritage.
- Instruct over the course of entire academic year and in all disciplines, not just in Social Science.
- Serve as a model for schools and teachers to develop similar courses of study to address the history and contributions of peoples of other cultures.

- Introduce the *Interdisciplinary African and African American Studies* curriculum guides to school-level educators
- Support schools in ensuring that students are provided with learning opportunities that allow them to appreciate the depth of contributions that people of African and African American descent have made on our local, national, and global societies
- Continue to solicit feedback and suggestions from teachers, principals, students and parents