

MERIDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Pride In All We Do



Recently, Meriden Public Schools (MPS) received a grant from the Dalio Foundation in the amount of \$150,000 to use data in new and innovative ways to promote college and career readiness. In addition to grant funding, MPS will be collaborating with East Hartford Public Schools and New Haven Public Schools to launch the RISE Network in Connecticut. RISE aims to close achievement gaps over time by mobilizing public and private resources, promoting innovative solutions, strengthening systems, and empowering educators.

Meriden's Innovation grant will provide Maloney High School and Platt High School a four week summer bridge program in the summer of 2016 for students transitioning from middle school to Grade 9. During what can be a challenging shift academically and socially, Maloney and Platt will target at-risk students by carefully analyzing Grade 8 data and risk factors, including course grades, standardized tests, attendance, climate survey, and behavior data.

Selected participating students will benefit from academic skill-building, activities to promote teamwork and perseverance, and project-based experiences. Students will be eligible to earn .5 credits in physical education, supporting students in accumulating credits and their trajectory toward graduation. This program also seeks to counteract summer learning loss and captures additional learning time during students' traditional summer vacation period. Students will enter high school with foundational interdisciplinary skills, a peer network, and relationships with high school teaching staff.

In addition, the grant will fund a new position, Supervisor of Data Integration and Postsecondary Planning. The Supervisor of Data Integration and Postsecondary Planning will strengthen data systems and build staff and school counseling capacity to use data to support postsecondary planning. This supervisor will lead efforts in Meriden's secondary schools to promote the use of applied data to personalize graduation plans, thereby enhancing and reimagining traditional secondary school counseling structures. Students will benefit from twelfth grade college and transition programs.

MPS is committed to the continued use of data to make informed decisions to improve student outcomes, as well as to provide relevant feedback related to K-12 academic programming. This will allow us to analyze how our high school counseling departments support students. Our collaboration with the RISE Network will strengthen and expand our work in these areas.