



Marion City Schools

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Marion City Schools Takes a Whole Child Approach

As part of a pilot program with the Ohio Department of Education and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), Marion City Schools' head principals and district-level administrators recently participated in a professional learning opportunity on the Whole Child Framework, a blueprint for meeting the needs of the whole child.

The PD, titled Leading the Change, was facilitated by Dr. Alicia Monroe, a nationally-recognized ASCD faculty member with more than 20 years experience in education, leadership, organizational change, change management, diversity and inclusion, and equity and access. Dr. Monroe was instrumental in developing the ASCD's Whole Child Framework, which has now been adopted by ODE as a collaborative approach to learning and wellness.

The purpose of the Whole Child approach is to transition from a focus on narrowly-defined academic achievement to one that promotes the long-term development and success of all children. It focuses on five tenets for student success - healthy, safe, challenged, supported and engaged. These are commonly held beliefs reflecting optimally desired student conditions leading to success in life and learning. When students are healthy, feel safe, have strong relationships, are challenged and experience success, and are engaged in

learning that is relevant and meaningful, they are more likely to enjoy learning, develop positive social skills and achieve greater academic success.

Dr. Monroe was joined by Amy Neloms, senior manager of Professional Learning/Whole Child at the ASCD, and Brittany Miracle, program administrator in the Office of Whole Child Supports at ODE. Johnnie Jackson, supervisor of Diversity and Equity at Marion City Schools, also shared about culture and equity.

Administrators gained a shared understanding of the Whole Child Framework and learned how to apply the philosophy to their everyday work and future planning. Moving forward, MCS team members will be showcasing the great work happening in the district in May 2023 as part of ODE's Whole Child Network Webinar series.

MCS was one of 10 school districts in the state of Ohio selected to participate in the inaugural Ohio Whole Child Pilot School Cohort for the 2022-2023 school year. In the Fall, staff members completed a School Improvement Tool survey to identify strengths and areas for improvement in the district focusing on the five tenets of the Whole Child Framework. Administrators have been working with Dr. Monroe and the ASCD team throughout the school year to learn more about the Whole Child approach. The ultimate goal is to ensure Whole Child is woven into all aspects of the work we do at Marion City Schools to Inspire a Community of Achievement!

For more information on the Whole Child Framework, please visit ODE's webpage at <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Ohios-Whole-Child-Framework>.