



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA



DISSTON ELEMENTARY

6801 Cottage St. | Philadelphia, PA 19135 | Phone: 215.400.3350 Grades K-8

Annual Fall Title I & SAC Meeting
Date: 9/09/25

WHAT IS TITLE I?

- ❖ The federal government provides Title I funding to states each year. These funds are disseminated to each School District (LEA). The District is then responsible for distributing these funds to all our schools based on two criteria:
 - ❖ Formula based on low-income status
 - ❖ Title I School Designation
- ❖ Each Spring during the budget process, our school decides how best to use our Title I funds based on a needs assessment with the guidance of school leadership, parents and community members.

OUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOUR HELP EACH SPRING TO WORK WITH SCHOOL STAFF AND DEVELOP:

- ❖ The Parent and Family Engagement Policy
- ❖ The School-Parent Compact
- ❖ The Schoolwide Plan
- ❖ The School Budget

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

- ❖ The School District of Philadelphia, with the input of parents, develops a written, district-wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy.
- ❖ If you are interested in providing suggestions and/or recommendations at the District level, please contact your school's Family Engagement Liaison or the Office of Family and Community Engagement (215-400-4180).

SCHOOL-BASED PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

❖ Discusses how:

- ❖ We will involve parents in the process of school review and improvement
- ❖ We will provide the necessary technical assistance to parents that will support and improve student academic achievement
- ❖ We will build parents' capacity for strong parental involvement to improve student academic achievement
- ❖ Parents are involved in the development, evaluation and revision of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

- ❖ The Compact states the goals and responsibilities of the school in providing a quality education to all students and identifying interventions for students who are struggling academically.
- ❖ The Compact states the responsibilities of parents and students in helping the school to meet these goals.

TITLE I SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

- ❖ In Pennsylvania, all schools are given a designation of Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), Additional Targeted Support & Improvement (ATSI) or Non-Designated, based on school performance measures:
 - ❖ These include the state's academic standards and assessments (PSSA/Keystones)

❖ Our School Designation is: TSI & ATSI

SCHOOLWIDE PLAN

- ❖ The Schoolwide Plan is the school's roadmap to academic success. It details:
 - ❖ Where the school is now (data)
 - ❖ Where the school needs to go (goals)
 - ❖ How the school will get there (plan)
 - ❖ How the school will know if the plan is working (review and revise)

OUR DATA

SCHOOLWIDE PLAN

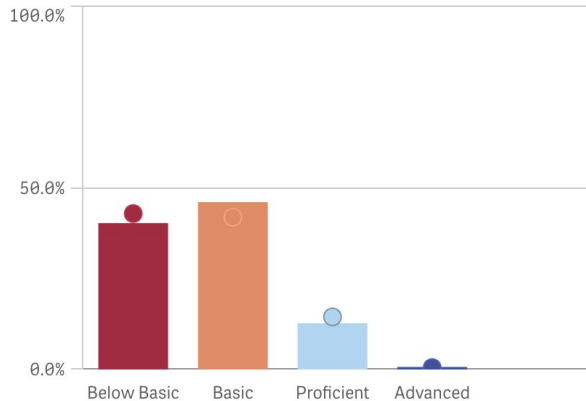
ELA % of Students Proficient or Advanced (Keystone and P...

2024-2025, Disston, Hamilton School. Out of 431 Students.

13.5%^{-1.5%}_{YOY}

ELA: % of Students by Performance Level (Keystone and P...

2024-2025 (Bars) v. 2023-2024 (Circles), Disston, Hamilton School.



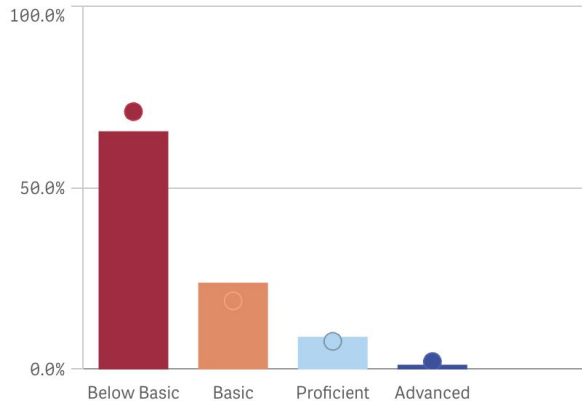
Math % of Students Proficient or Advanced (Keystone and ...

2024-2025, Disston, Hamilton School. Out of 455 Students.

10.3%^{+0.4%}_{YOY}

Math: % of Students by Performance Level (Keystone and ...

2024-2025 (Bars) v. 2023-2024 (Circles), Disston, Hamilton School.



SCHOOLWIDE PLAN

GOALS & STRATEGIES

GOALS

GOAL 2

At least 16.38% of grade 3 students will score proficient/advanced on the ELA PSSA

GOAL 1

At least 16.48% of grade 3-8 students will score proficient/advanced on the ELA PSSA

GOAL 3

At least 10.64% of grade 3-8 students will score proficient/advanced on the Math PSSA

STRATEGIES

Implement the ELA & Math curriculum with fidelity and integrity

Implement Culturally Responsive Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (CR-PBIS)

SCHOOL BUDGETS AND SET-ASIDE REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ Title I expenditures must support the school's core academic program to ensure a well-rounded education. They should be aligned with the Schoolwide Plan.
- ❖ Parents must be involved in the discussions regarding how these funds will best support improving academic achievement.
- ❖ 1% set aside for Parent and Family Engagement
- ❖ Parents must be involved in the discussions regarding how these funds will best support them in working with their child at home to improve achievement.

SCHOOL TITLE I SPENDING

❖ Our School plans to spend this year's Title I funds on...

- Our budget supplements and supports the core academic program with a 5-day a -week 1 Dean (\$142,000), 1 Counselor (\$142,000), 7 Student Climate Staff (\$304,500) and classroom instructional materials (\$3128)

❖ Our School plans to spend this year's Parent funds on...

- Parental involvement funds will include materials to better equip families to support their children academically and behaviorally. Tied to Math and ELA Board Goals 1-3. Purchases will include materials aligned to the new science curriculum.

TEACHER & PARAPROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

❖ **Appropriately State Certified Teachers:**

- ❖ Certified by passing state examination (PRAXIS)
- ❖ BA degree
- ❖ Area of certification must match the teaching assignment

❖ **To be hired, all paraprofessionals must be Appropriately State Certified:**

- ❖ Completed two years of higher education study, OR
- ❖ Hold an Associate Degree, OR
- ❖ Pass a rigorous, formal assessment

RIGHT TO KNOW QUALIFICATIONS

- ❖ You have the right to request the qualifications of your child's teacher and any instructional paraprofessionals that work with your child.
- ❖ To learn the qualifications of these staff members, please make an appointment with the principal.

RIGHT TO KNOW 4 WEEK LETTER

- ❖ You will be notified in writing when your child is taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not Appropriately State Certified.

STATE ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENTS

❖ Our State Assessments are...

- PSSA for ELA, MATH & Science

❖ During report card conferences your child's teacher will discuss the State's academic content standards. These conferences will be held on 11/24-11/25, 1/29-1/30, and 4/9-4/10

CURRICULUM

- Our school's curriculum is...
 - EL (Expeditionary Learning)
 - IM (Illustrative Math)
 - Amplify (Science)

- You can support student learning at home by...
 - Reading with your child
 - Asking questions about what your child is learning
 - Ensuring your child completes all assignments

OUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!

- ❖ Learn about our **Title I** program and review documents in our Title I binder located in the main office (available by request during closure)
- ❖ Take advantage of what **Title I** has to offer
- ❖ Get involved in your child's education

You, your child, and our school can be a winning team!



Meet the Teacher Night 2025/2026

Schedule

4:30-4:50 PM.	General Assembly of Families in Auditorium
4:50 – 5:00 PM	Transition
5:00 – 5:30 PM	Classroom Presentation #1
5:30 – 5:40 PM	Transition
5:40 – 6:10 PM	Classroom Presentation #2
6:10 – 6:30 PM	Open Visitations – Specialist Teachers, Special Education Teachers, Counselors, etc



Our mission is to professionally develop our staff in an effort to offer our students quality instruction while exposing them to various forms of technology and incentives. As a Community School, we value our partnerships that enhance the overall educational experience that we provide to all stakeholders.



Our vision is to create an inclusive environment that empowers all students to become well-rounded individuals that embody social responsibility.

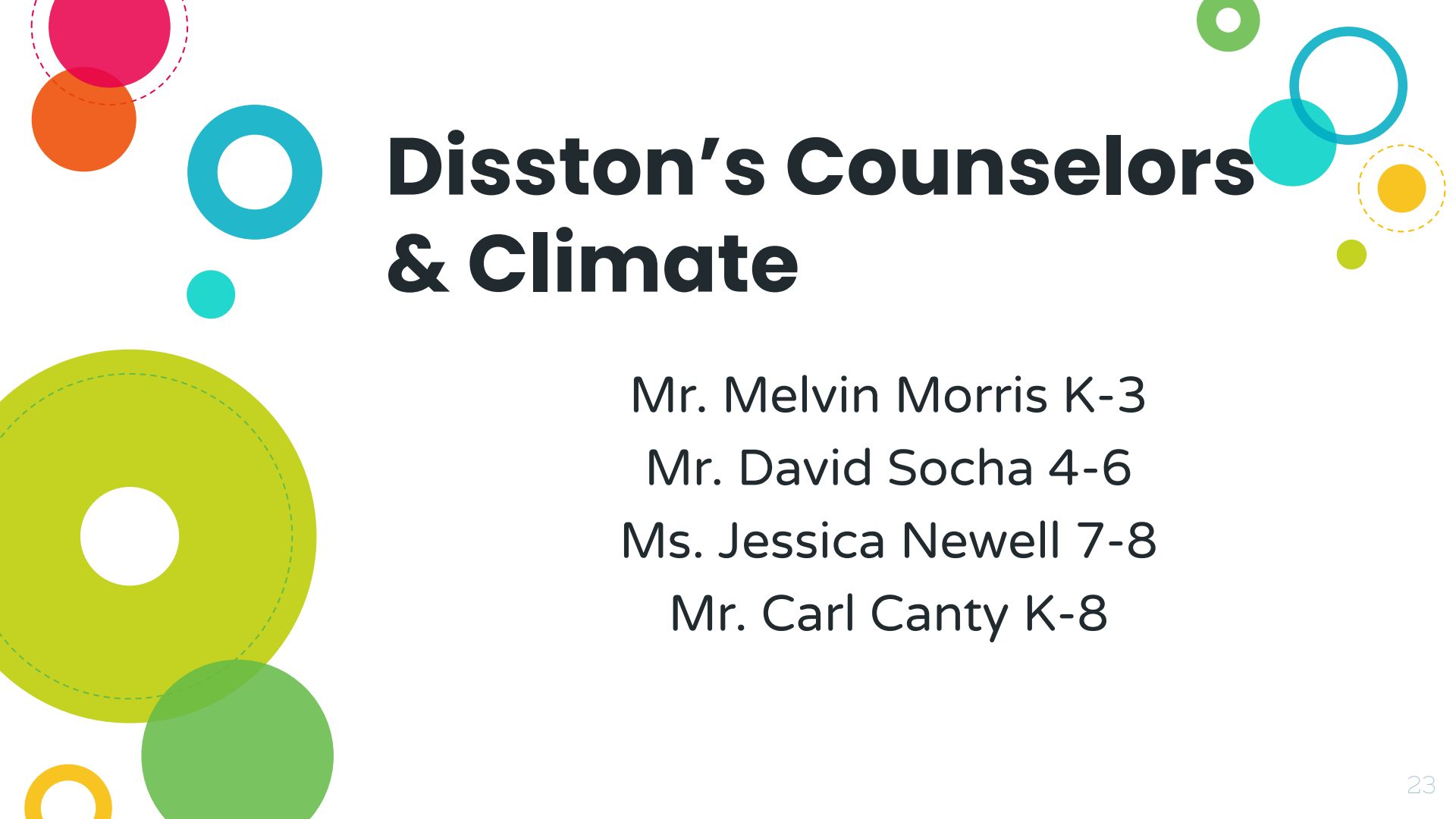
A decorative graphic consisting of various colored circles and rings in shades of pink, orange, teal, yellow, and green, some with dashed outlines, scattered around the title.

Disston's Leadership

Mrs. Michele Hutz, Principal

Mr. Matthew Braun, Assistant Principal

Ms. Jami Ortega, Assistant Principal

A decorative graphic featuring various colored circles and rings. In the top left, there are pink, orange, and blue circles, some with dashed outlines. A large blue ring is positioned below the orange circle. In the top right, there are green, blue, and yellow circles, some with dashed outlines. A large green ring is in the bottom left, and a green circle is in the bottom right. The title text is centered in the upper half of the slide.

Disston's Counselors & Climate

Mr. Melvin Morris K-3

Mr. David Socha 4-6

Ms. Jessica Newell 7-8

Mr. Carl Canty K-8

Counselor Morris Grades K-3



- 14 years as a youth detention counselor providing life skills and structured activities
- 5 years as a Disston Counselor
- Have a beautiful wife, son and a pet
- Thrilled to be a part of the Disston community
- Available on Class Dojo email at mmorris@philasd.org

Counselor Socha Grades 4-6



- 10th year as a School Counselor
- 3rd year in the Phila School District
- B.A. - Psychology and Theatre Arts, UCSC
- M.A. - Drama Therapy, NYU
- Registered Drama Therapist
- Post-Masters School Counseling classes/certification, West Chester University
- Theoretical lens: Use of play, drama, creativity and strength based techniques with students
- I love to connect with students and be that empathetic male support and role model
- ← I have a 3yo daughter Lucy and a 7yo daughter Mirabelle
- Contact me anytime on classDojo, or email at

DSocha@philasd.org. Room 313A.



Counselor Newell Grades 7–8



- Year 8 in the School District of Philadelphia
- B.A. in Psychology, Rutgers University
- M.A. in Counselor Education, University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- Focused on helping EVERY 8th grader complete a high school application between Monday, 9/8 @ 4pm and Thursday, 10/23 @ 11:59pm
- Social/emotional health for ALL students
- Academic counseling
- Getting 7th graders ready for high school selection this year!

Dean Canty- Climate



- Provide trauma informed behavioral management.
- Help build relationships.
- Reduce scholar frustrations.
- Provide classroom support.
- Help build community.
- Provide empathy to diverse needs of scholars.

Carolyn LeComte– Reading Specialist



- I've been a literacy coach in the district for almost 10 years.
- I previously taught elementary school in Washington DC and Upper Darby, PA.
- My husband Jon and I are proud parents of Calvin and Trevor.
- I am excited to join the Disston community and look forward to helping every child achieve reading success!

Patricia Gibson- Interventionist



I have been with the School District of Philadelphia for 17 years in various capacities- 2nd grade teacher, 4th grade teacher, reading support, school based teacher leader and now an interventionist! I look forward to working with the Disston community to achieve learning goals!



English for Speakers of Other Languages

The ELL Program in the Philadelphia School District is designed to give support to students in our district whose first language is not English. The goal of the program is to help these students to develop and strengthen their English skills in order to succeed in the mainstream classroom. Ultimately, these students will be able to listen, read, speak, and write effectively in English

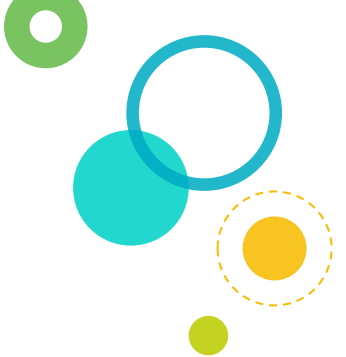
- ◎ Disston currently has 6 ESOL teachers serving a population of over 200 ELs
- ◎ Students in the program may be pulled out for small group instruction or receive EL services in the regular classroom
- ◎ Those programs are the general ed ELA curriculum with scaffolds and accommodations or the REACH program designed for newcomers and beginners



Special Education and Diverse Learners

Disston provides the following services through push-in and pull-out models:

- Learning Support-
Kindergarten through 8th grade
- Autistic Support-
Kindergarten through 3rd grade
- Emotional Support-
6th through 8th grade



Special Education and Diverse Learners

The Office of Special Education and Diverse Learners supports families, students, and their teachers by providing the tools and resources to ensure that all eligible diverse learners receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE); this is accomplished through the provision of special education and/or related services to meet the unique needs of all eligible diverse learners. High-quality instruction is essential to our work and we are committed to preparing our students for success.

Meet Our New Nurse: George Yogis

What parents need to know:

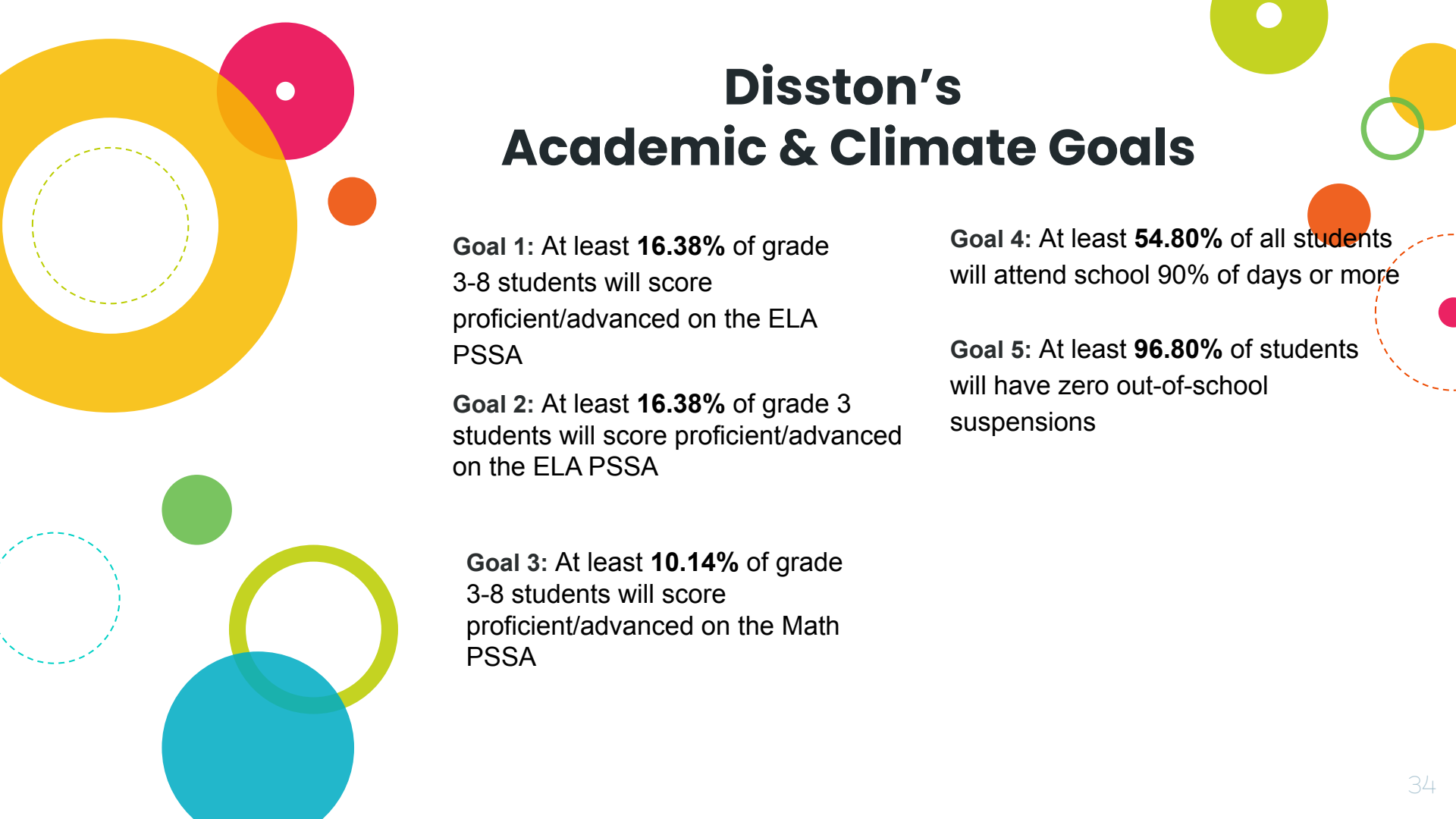
- **Med 1 Form**
 - Must be submitted in order for Nurse G to administer prescription medication in the original box.
- Nurse can only provide Tylenol, ibuprofen, or hydrocortisone IF the Student Information/Medical Information form has been completed
- **Vaccinations**
 - All students are required to be up to date unless there is a religious exemption
- What happens when a child is seen by Nurse G
 - Family will receive a phone call from the nurse
 - A card will be sent home with the child describing the complaint and treatment
 - If related to a climate issue, the Dean will follow up with the family

Community School

Community School Coordinator Undretta Williams

"The Community School Coordinator unites families, educators and community partners to remove barriers and create opportunities for every student to thrive."

- Serves as the bridge between school, families and community partners.
- Coordinates resources and programs that address student and family needs.
- Assess school and community needs to align supports and services.
- Build partnerships with local organizations, agencies and stakeholders.
- Coordinate programs that support academics, health and family engagement.
- Connect student and families with supports such as case management based on the situation and need.



Disston's Academic & Climate Goals

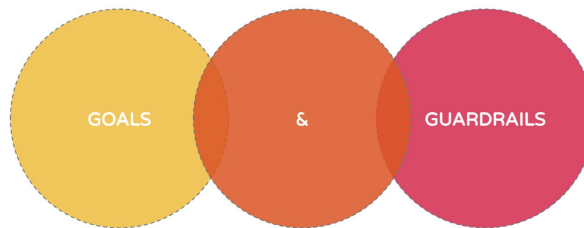
Goal 1: At least **16.38%** of grade 3-8 students will score proficient/advanced on the ELA PSSA

Goal 2: At least **16.38%** of grade 3 students will score proficient/advanced on the ELA PSSA

Goal 3: At least **10.14%** of grade 3-8 students will score proficient/advanced on the Math PSSA

Goal 4: At least **54.80%** of all students will attend school 90% of days or more

Goal 5: At least **96.80%** of students will have zero out-of-school suspensions

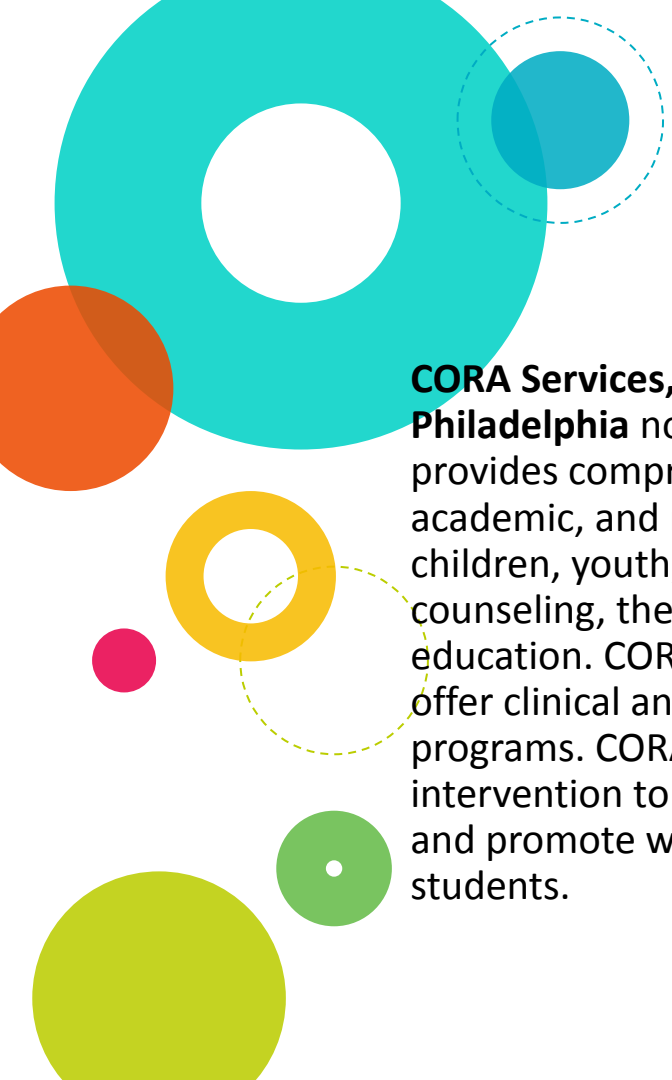


Guardrail 1	Guardrail 2	Guardrail 3	Guardrail 4
Welcoming and Supportive Schools	Enriching and Well-rounde d School Experiences	Partnering with Parents & Family Members	Addressing Racist Practices

Title I Funds

- Title I, Part A (Title I) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESEA) provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards.
- Each school is required to spend at least **1%** of its Title I funds on training/education program for parents.





CORA Services

CORA Services, INC. CORA Services is a **Philadelphia** nonprofit organization in that provides comprehensive social, emotional, academic, and mental health services to children, youth, and families, including counseling, therapy, and early childhood education. CORA partners with schools to offer clinical and community-based programs. CORA focuses on prevention, and intervention to build a strong community and promote well-being for families and students.

Community Services

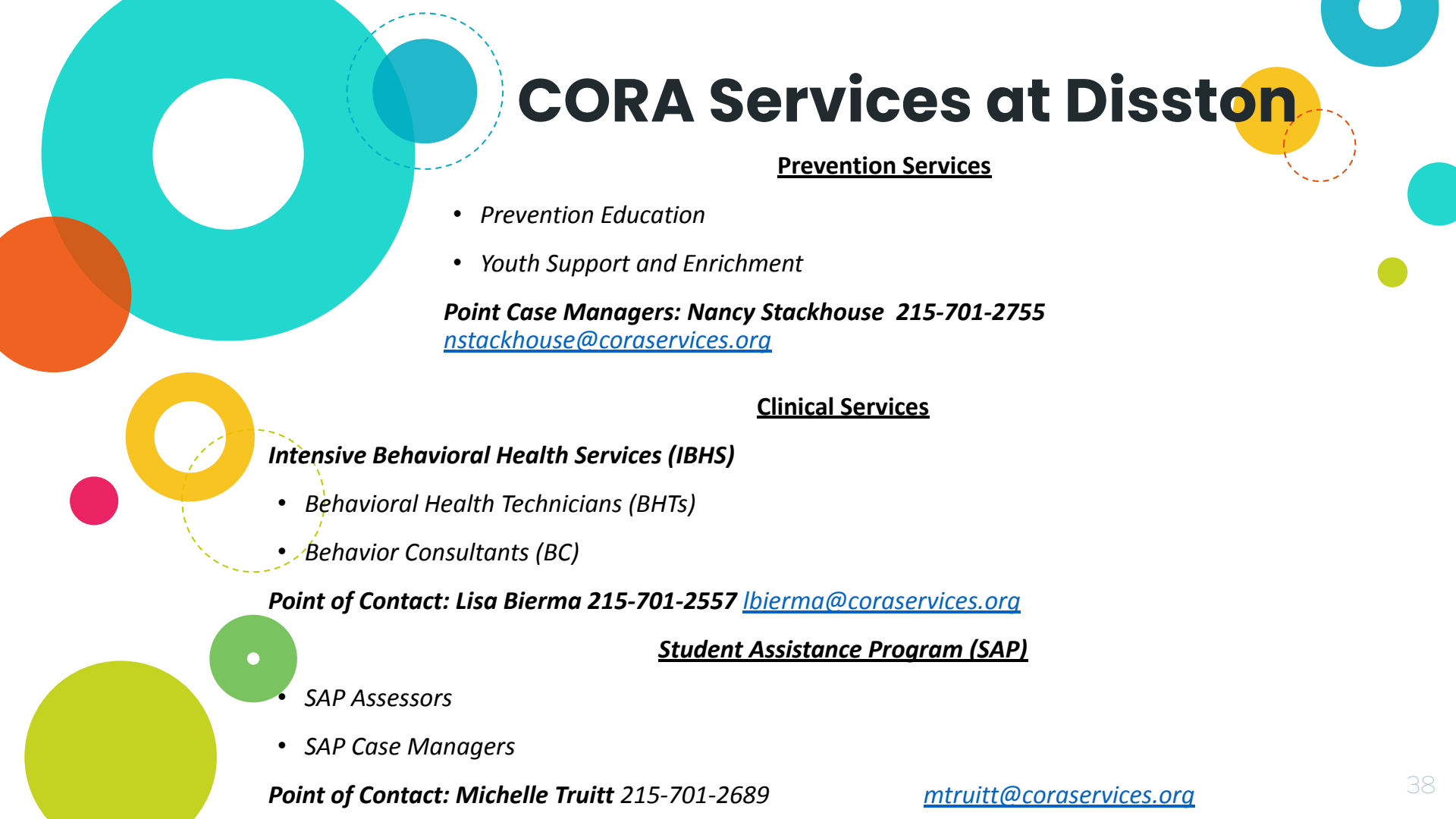
Integrated Case Management

- General Case Management: **Ms. Danaysi Salaza**
- Attendance Case Management: **Mr. T.**

Point of Contact: Angie Walls 215-701-2728,
awalls@coraservices.org

YouthCOR

Point of Contact: Nyeemah Wright 215-800-6182,
nwright@coraservices.org



CORA Services at Disston

Prevention Services

- *Prevention Education*
- *Youth Support and Enrichment*

Point Case Managers: Nancy Stackhouse 215-701-2755
nstackhouse@coraservices.org

Clinical Services

Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS)

- *Behavioral Health Technicians (BHTs)*
- *Behavior Consultants (BC)*

Point of Contact: Lisa Bierma 215-701-2557 lbierma@coraservices.org

Student Assistance Program (SAP)

- *SAP Assessors*
- *SAP Case Managers*

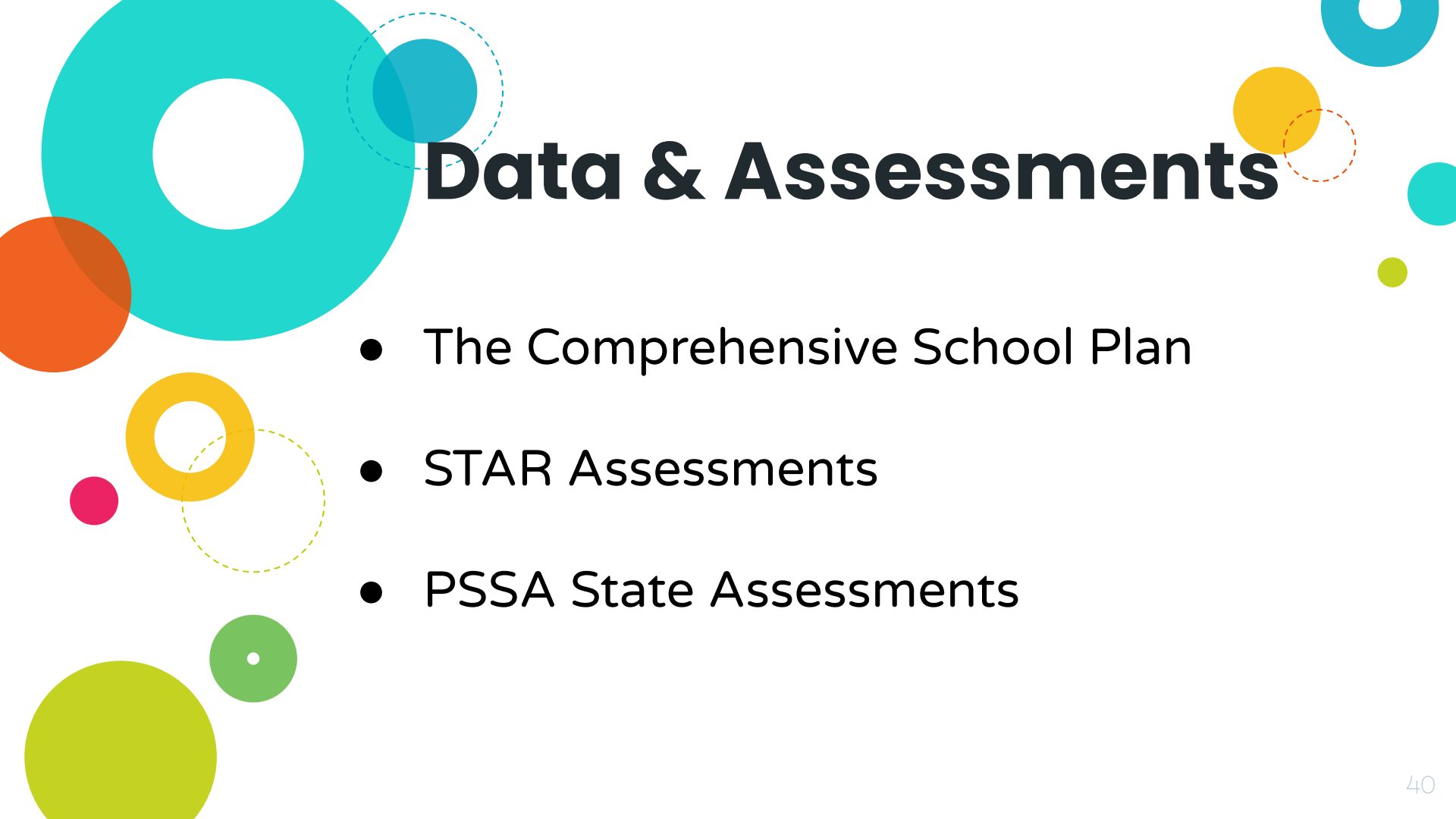
Point of Contact: Michelle Truitt 215-701-2689

mtruitt@coraservices.org

Parent Communication

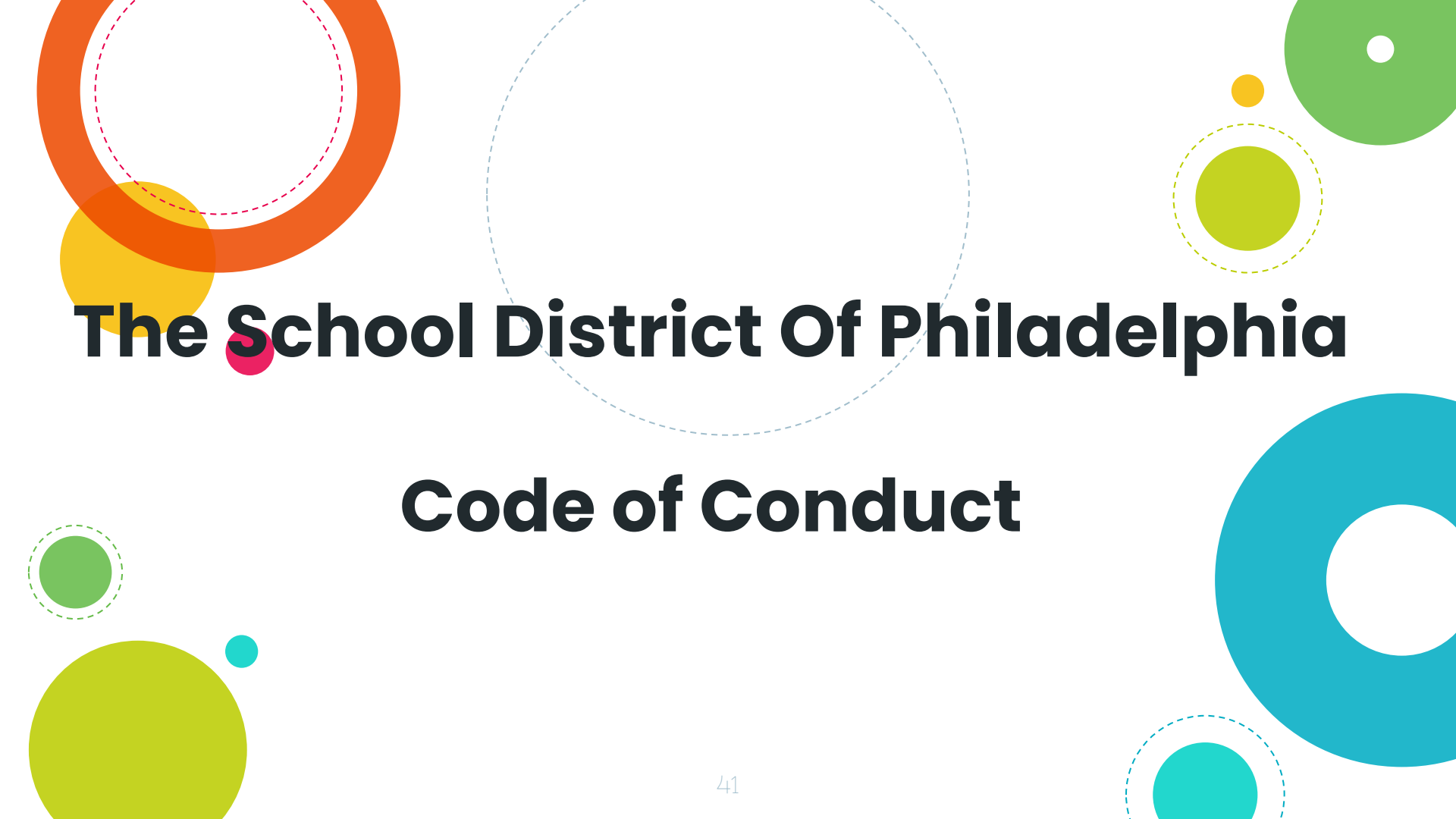


Class Dojo allows staff and families to connect through communication features, such as feed for photos and videos from the school day highlighting student work, learning tasks and classroom announcements.



Data & Assessments

- The Comprehensive School Plan
- STAR Assessments
- PSSA State Assessments



The School District Of Philadelphia

Code of Conduct

Thanks!



Any questions?