

# Milestones For College Success

As students progress through their 4K-12 academic careers, they strive for and reach a number of key milestones. The Mequon-Thiensville School District (MTSD) has determined seven milestones that are used as benchmarks to guide our efforts to ensure students will experience college and future career success.

Our goal is that when our students graduate from high school, they have the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in a post-secondary education. Each milestone is rigorous and requires students to develop higher-level thinking and problem-solving skills necessary to meet the challenges of a changing global environment.

## MTSD’s Seven Milestones For College Success include:

- 1. Reading to Instructional Level (K – 2nd grade)** – Students that are reading at or above their instructional level by the end of third grade are likely to experience success in their post-secondary endeavors. Reading to instructional level (as measured on the Fountas & Pinnell Text Level Gradient) is the ability at which the student can read without additional support (i.e., challenging but manageable text for the reader).
- 2. Reading Attainment (3rd – 8th grade)** – Students who score at or above the 66th percentile at grade level on Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests demonstrate reading skills that will likely lead to college success.
- 3. Math Attainment (3rd – 8th grade)** – Students who score at or above the 70th percentile at grade level on Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests demonstrate mathematics skills that will likely lead to college success.
- 4. ACT Benchmark Attainment (8th – 11th grades)** – Students who meet or exceed all four ACT Benchmarks in English, math, reading, and science associated with this exam have a high probability for success in respective college credit-bearing courses. The ACT series of assessments can be used to assess college readiness.
- 5. Algebra 2 Completion** – Students who take advanced math in high school are much more likely to attend, and graduate from college. By completing Algebra 2 by the end of 10th grade with a “C” or higher, students will have access to rigorous pre-college mathematics course options in grades 11 and 12.
- 6. Success in Advanced Coursework** – Students who successfully complete advanced coursework [i.e., take Advanced Placement exams (score 3 or better) or dual-credit courses (attain a “B” or better)] prior to high school completion perform better in college.
- 7. Student Engagement (4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades)** – Students who are engaged at school (average  $\geq 3.0$  on a 4.0 scale) are likely to further their education and experience post-secondary success. The *School Perceptions Student Engagement Survey* measures six indicators including *Connectedness, Drive, Leadership, Motivation, Social & Emotional Aptitude, and Wellness*.

## MTSD Milestones for College Success Dashboard:

What percentages of our students met MTSD Milestones in the 2015-16 school year?

MILESTONE	MILESTONE	MILESTONE	MILESTONE	MILESTONE	MILESTONE	MILESTONE
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
91%	67%	58%	50%	39%	73%	71%