



**Berwyn North School District 98**  
**6633 West 16th Street**  
**Berwyn, Illinois 60402-1320**  
**[www.bn98.org](http://www.bn98.org)**

*Dedicated to achieving  
personal, academic and  
civic potential*

**Dr. Carmen I. Ayala**  
**Superintendent**

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January 29, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Berwyn North School District 98 has had a very productive partnership with the Curriculum Leadership Institute (CLI) for the last seven years. In that time frame we have had most of our staff trained in the curriculum development process. What CLI offers is an exceptional curriculum development process that has raised teacher knowledge about standards-based curriculum, assessment development, and resource selection. It clearly helps to create the deep alignment to curriculum that we all know leads to successful academic achievement. We currently have common local assessments across all grade levels, a PK-8 vertically and horizontally aligned curriculum, and specifically selected resources in several curricular areas. One of the first steps we took was to develop a five year curriculum development plan which guided our work.

As a district, we have had the opportunity to work with one CLI consultant, assigned to our district. This consultant, Rhonda Renfro, has brought such knowledge and expertise to every in-service and training meeting. She has truly taken the time to "learn" our district. Teachers and administrators communicate with her frequently and she is truly viewed as one of our very own staff members. There have even been occasions when we have met with a group of other outside consultants to plan and customize professional development so that everything we do is aligned and supporting of our curriculum development model. I say "our" model because while there is a framework, CLI works very closely with district staff to honor the district's culture, strategic plan and initiatives.

Any initiative is ultimately deemed successful by the impact that it has on student achievement. A comparison of state achievement data with five neighboring school districts shows Berwyn North District 98 has had greater academic growth. Students gained nineteen percentage points overall in comparison to like districts that did not gain as much and/or had decreases in achievement. Achievement gains have improved in both reading and math since the implementation of the CLI model. As we also disaggregated our data, we noted even greater gains with our student groups. We have worked very closely with CLI to assure that our

curriculum, resources and assessments are not only rigorous but are also positively impacting the closing of our achievement gaps.

The CLI model has not only had a positive impact on student achievement, the model has also provided teachers with a framework that establishes rigor, a common vocabulary and a common understanding underlying standards-based instruction.

The Curriculum Leadership Institute has been instrumental and supportive while our district creates a systemic and systematic approach to curriculum development. I would wholeheartedly recommend the Curriculum Leadership Institute to any system that is very serious about improving student achievement. If you are interested in a written, tested and taught curriculum that is tightly aligned, the CLI process is the partnership you would want. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have and can be reached at 708-484-6200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carmen I. Ayala". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Dr. Carmen I. Ayala

Superintendent of Schools