

# McKinney Independent School District

## Serenity High School

### 2023-2024 Improvement Plan



**Board Approval Date:** October 23, 2023  
**Public Presentation Date:** October 23, 2023

# Mission Statement

We invest in our future by providing a safe environment to engage, educate and empower every student, every day.

## Vision

EVERY STUDENT, EVERY DAY!

## Core Beliefs

We believe:

- In our students
- Everyone has inherent value and deserves to be treated with dignity and respect in a safe learning environment
- Learning is an active process involving students and parents to ensure that every student has an excellent education
- Every student needs an avenue to be engaged with their campus activities
- In recruiting and retaining the best staff for our students
- Staff is our greatest resource
- All staff should focus on student outcomes
- In creating an environment that fosters authentic partnerships with the whole community
- In providing open and honest two-way communication that builds trust toward creating a thriving learning environment
- Financial stewardship ensures a tomorrow for education

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# Comprehensive Needs Assessment

## Demographics

### Demographics Summary

The typical student at Serenity High School is not so "atypical" when compared to other secondary students in McKinney ISD. Our students do not have any more or less academic challenges. Their biggest challenge is to maintain their sobriety and develop the social and emotional skills to cope with sobriety on a daily basis. We serve students and families throughout Collin County and into neighboring counties such as Denton, Dallas, and Rockwall counties.

### Demographics Strengths

Our strengths are measured under a unique set of indicators that are different from the demographic strengths of MISD. Serenity High is a member of the national Association of Recovery Schools and one of 22 recovery high schools nation-wide. We have just started our 16th year of operation and have developed partnerships with 15 neighboring school districts. Students in our school continue to earn a Texas High School diploma despite the circumstances that brought them to Serenity. We believe an integral part of the educational experience is the volunteer opportunities provided through community service.

# Student Achievement

## Student Achievement Summary

- Safe and orderly school environment
- High expectations of students
- Positive and supportive school climate
- Communication and interaction
- Community outreach and involvement
- Leadership and staff empowerment
- Norm of continuous improvement
- Interpersonal support
- Self-confidence and responsibility
- Provide tutoring as needed

## Student Achievement Strengths

- Self-paced learning environment
- One-on-one instruction
- Instruction that is tailored to fit the student's learning needs
- Students are encouraged to give feedback on lessons/assignments
- Students are given opportunities to learn from their mistakes

## **School Culture and Climate**

### **School Culture and Climate Summary**

Serenity High offers a rare opportunity. It is a safe haven and sober environment for students who have successfully completed a recognized treatment program and students who want to complete requirements to earn a Texas high school diploma. The focus is on staying sober and receiving a high school education and building self-esteem through community service.

### **School Culture and Climate Strengths**

Students at Serenity will need more than what the school can provide. Our climate is based on establishing a strong partnership with parents and students. Students and parents that are successful at Serenity because of a mutual understanding which leads to more of a collaborative environment. We pride ourselves on operating efficiently with solution-based initiatives as our focus. Our smaller size allows us the unique opportunity to connect with our students and meet a host of needs.

# Staff Quality, Recruitment, and Retention

# Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

## Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Summary

How we support and develop student learning is outlined by Texas Education Agency (TEA) and McKinney ISD which includes:

- Clear standards
- Fair assessments
- Focused curriculum framework
- Best-practices for instruction
- Appropriate materials and resources
- Planned interventions

## Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Strengths

- Teacher generated exams (formative and summative)
- Teacher generated project based exams
- Teacher checks for understanding with verbal responses from students
- Teacher includes on going STAAR tutoring



## Parent and Community Engagement

### Parent and Community Engagement Summary

- Bridging school-family differences
- Overcoming time and resource constraints
- Providing information and training to parents and school staff.
- Restructuring schools to support family involvement

### Parent and Community Engagement Strengths

- Recovery support exists from our parents and other community members.
- Fund raising support from events such as the golf tournament and concert series benefit our school.
- Treatment centers for substance abuse provide educational opportunities for staff development.
- Serenity High has been recognized by the *White House Office of National Drug Control Policy* for its contribution to the recovery community.

## **Technology**

### **Technology Summary**

Serenity utilizes APEX for daily instruction. We are limited to desk and lap tops for student instruction.

### **Technology Strengths**

Serenity's instructional staff as begun to process of using Canvas to complement APEX on-line courses.

# Goals





**Goal 1:** Serenity will ensure the schools are safe and secure.

**Performance Objective 1:** McKinney ISD will increase attention on safety and security in order to promote an environment in which students, parents, and staff feel safe.

**Goal 2:** Serenity will use data driven decisions to engage students in learning experiences that ensure growth and will prepare them for graduation and post-secondary success.

**Performance Objective 1:** Serenity Staff will be a part of the MISD decision making process in curriculum, instruction and assessment.

**Evaluation Data Sources:** All district level meetings that impact the operations of Serenity High School will have representation.

Strategy 1 Details	Reviews		
<p><b>Strategy 1:</b> Serenity will ensure appropriate designees are chosen for academic operation meetings.  <b>Strategy's Expected Result/Impact:</b> Serenity High School has a staff representative in all Secondary functions.  <b>Staff Responsible for Monitoring:</b> Serenity High School administrators.</p>	Formative		Summative
	Nov	Feb	June
<p style="text-align: center;">  No Progress                 Accomplished                 Continue/Modify                 Discontinue         </p>			





**Goal 2:** Serenity will use data driven decisions to engage students in learning experiences that ensure growth and will prepare them for graduation and post-secondary success.

**Performance Objective 2:** Serenity High School students and staff will collaborate on a formal process to develop and monitor goals.

**Evaluation Data Sources:** Each staff member will have professional goals related to the overall recovery culture of Serenity and students will develop goals that guide their recovery within the framework of a recovery high school.

**Goal 3:** Serenity will continue to recruit, recognize, develop, and retain high quality and effective staff.





**Performance Objective 1:** Serenity will establish innovative recruitment and retention practices that support the development of all employees and grows high quality staff.

Strategy 1 Details	Reviews		
<p><b>Strategy 1:</b> Serenity High School will continue to monitor the process for tracking progress and providing regular updates to educational partners.</p> <p><b>Strategy's Expected Result/Impact:</b> A completed process that shows regular communication between partnering districts and Serenity.</p> <p><b>Staff Responsible for Monitoring:</b> Serenity High School Staff</p>	<b>Formative</b>		<b>Summative</b>
	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>June</b>
Strategy 2 Details	Reviews		
<p><b>Strategy 2:</b> For the purpose of establishing new partnership visits will be made to those districts who do not currently have students enrolled at Serenity</p> <p><b>Strategy's Expected Result/Impact:</b> In addition to maintaining a relationship with our long standing partners, visiting other districts has continued to foster the public awareness of the unique educational opportunity at Serenity High.</p> <p><b>Staff Responsible for Monitoring:</b> Serenity High School Administrative Team</p>	<b>Formative</b>		<b>Summative</b>
	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>June</b>
<p style="text-align: center;">  No Progress                 Accomplished                 Continue/Modify                 Discontinue         </p>			

**Goal 4:** Serenity will intentionally focus on maintaining a culture that is inclusive of students, staff, and community.

**Performance Objective 1:** Students at Serenity will have a documented transition plan to support their sobriety and academic success.





**Evaluation Data Sources:** Each student at Serenity has a written "personal success plan" upon return to their home ISD.

Strategy 1 Details	Reviews		
<p><b>Strategy 1:</b> Written personal success plans are in place for all Serenity students. Tenth graders will be given the opportunity to take the PSAT exam.</p> <p><b>Strategy's Expected Result/Impact:</b> Every student has a detailed academic plan that meets their post secondary goals and ensures continued sobriety.</p> <p><b>Staff Responsible for Monitoring:</b> Serenity High School Staff</p>	<b>Formative</b>		<b>Summative</b>
	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>June</b>
Strategy 2 Details	Reviews		
<p><b>Strategy 2:</b> With staff support students will generate their own plan that measures success.</p> <p><b>Strategy's Expected Result/Impact:</b> Time is devoted weekly to students developing and adjusting their transition plan.</p> <p><b>Staff Responsible for Monitoring:</b> Serenity High School Staff and Students</p>	<b>Formative</b>		<b>Summative</b>
	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>June</b>
Strategy 3 Details	Reviews		
<p><b>Strategy 3:</b> Scholarship opportunities, college entrance forms, and FAFSA documents will be discussed with the MEF advisor and staff representatives. Staff will communicate to parents progress being made in each area.</p> <p><b>Strategy's Expected Result/Impact:</b> A MEF representative has met with our perspective graduates on a bi-monthly basis and each student has begun the process of applying for scholarships.</p> <p><b>Staff Responsible for Monitoring:</b> Serenity High Staff and MEF Staff</p>	<b>Formative</b>		<b>Summative</b>
	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>June</b>
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**Goal 5:** Serenity will ensure that communication internally and externally is consistent, accurate, and timely.

**Performance Objective 1:** Parents of Serenity students will be contacted on a regular basis to report successes and continued challenges.

**Evaluation Data Sources:** Each parent receives multiple contacts throughout the year.

Strategy 1 Details	Reviews		
<p><b>Strategy 1:</b> Serenity Staff will contact parents on a weekly basis, provide monthly progress reports and conduct six parent night events during the school year.</p> <p><b>Strategy's Expected Result/Impact:</b> Parent communication log, feedback from parent group, a learning community that fosters mutual support between the school and the community.</p> <p><b>Staff Responsible for Monitoring:</b> Serenity High School Staff</p>	<b>Formative</b>		<b>Summative</b>
	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>June</b>
Strategy 2 Details	Reviews		
<p><b>Strategy 2:</b> Parent conferences for all families were scheduled in October and will be scheduled in March for all parents of our current students.</p> <p><b>Strategy's Expected Result/Impact:</b> Parent conferences provide an opportunity for the co-development of action plans with families.</p> <p><b>Staff Responsible for Monitoring:</b> Serenity High School Staff</p>	<b>Formative</b>		<b>Summative</b>
	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>June</b>
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**Goal 6:** Serenity will continue to be fiscally responsible and efficient with district resources.

**Performance Objective 1:** Serenity will strategically and equitably manage our resources to meet identified student needs and align resource allocation with district goals.