OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Community Schools, Thriving Students

FOCUS AREA
(Pairing schools & Community of Practice schools)

What is your FOCUS for continuous improvement?
In Oakland, we know we are defining our "Big Rocks", or our focus of improvement as part of the Site Planning process. In most cases schools select at least two academic and one school culture focus area. These priority focus areas are identified by school communities through a process of looking at data, reviewing their program, and assessing their resources, and developing plans.

Why is FOCUS so important for Priority, Focus, and AMO schools?
The improvement strategies of Pairing schools and engaging Communities of Practice center around schools working together to improve student performance. In the absence of a FOCUS, that work becomes confusing, muddled, and less and less helpful. It can become more work than it's worth. On the contrary, when a school has a clear FOCUS for their improvement efforts, Pairing and Communities of Practice can provide an awesome support structure for school improvement.

STRUCTURE OF OAKLAND FOCUS AREAS:
(This is a SAMPLE of one of a school's "Big Rocks". The actual goal-setting tool may differ slightly.)

Big Rock #1: Balanced Literacy	What will it look like: *Consistent implementation of rigorous Reader's workshop, differentiated to support all students*		
EOY Goal: *40% growth in SRI*	**Organizational Practices**	**Leadership Practices**	**Teacher Practices**
Baseline: - *Observation of different practices in every classroom* - *SRI scores: 20% SRI growth last year*	- *Create supply room built around good workshop activities* - *Using time during 3rd Wednesday for best practice sharing* - *Create weekly email of links to good online tools*	- *Observation and feedback using model workshop components* - *Providing targeted coaching to new teachers* - *Co-Constructing agenda for data-talks on Workshops with teacher teams*	- *Conduct peer observations monthly* - *Use I, WE YOU lesson plan model* - *Self-assess weekly with teacher teams using workshop model template*
District Balanced Scorecard Goals Alignment: • % of 3rd Grade students at Grade Level on SRI			
NOTES: Evidence of Implementation *(Just a holding place for monitoring tool later…)* *Emails, agendas, coaching notes, observations of desired practice, action plans, best practice sharing videos…*			