

Defining Academic Rigor

JA Board Work Session activity

March 9, 2022

The purpose of this activity is to gather ratings from the work session participants regarding the articles, background information, perspectives of different stakeholders, and student achievement data, as well as, maybe their own thoughts/assessment of this topic.

There will be four (4) charts displayed on the wall. Each chart will have a specific topic/question to rate/answer. The participants will be assigned to one of four small groups. These groups will rotate every five minutes between these charts onto which their responses will be placed/tallied. A recorder will be designated for each small group who will later report out to the entire group as a whole.

Additionally, each recorder will be responsible to tally the results for the last chart where he/she ends the rotation.

Below is what to write/display on each chart.

Chart #1 - Articles

Seven articles were provided to review/read in preparation for this work session. Please rate the top three articles as 1, 2, or 3 that you found most helpful for you in defining Academic Rigor.

- A. New Definition of Rigor (Edutopia)
- B. Academic Rigor: You're Doing It Wrong ... (The Edvocate; Mathew Lynch)
- C. Explaining Academic Rigor – and why you want it... (GreatSchool.org)
- D. Is This Class Hard ...? (CBE – Life Sciences Education)
- E. Rigor/Relevance Framework (ICLE)
- F. Academic Rigor: A Comprehensive Definition (Quality Matter: QM)
- G. The Powerful Task Rubric

Chart #2 – Perspectives

The perspectives of the JA Stakeholders have been shared as background information. Please rate these perspectives as to their helpfulness for you in defining Academic Rigor. Rate each one as 1, 2, 3, or 4.

1 = Very Much 2 = Yes 3 = Not So Much 4 = N/A Not Applicable

- A. Other Charter School Leaders
- B. JA Founders
- C. JA Parents
- D. JA Elementary Staff
- E. JA Secondary Staff
- F. Mental Health
- G. JA Admin Team
- H. Alumni
- I. Make Your Voice Heard (Jr.H.)
- J. Make Your Voice Heard (H.S.)
- K. DESSA Elementary

Chart #3 – Survey & Achievement Data

Data have been collected and provided. Please rate the value of these data for you in defining Academic Rigor. Rate each one as 1, 2, 3, or 4.

1 = Very Much 2 = Yes 3 = Not So Much 4 = N/A Not Applicable

- A. Survey Monkey
- B. Achievement Data – High School
- C. Achievement Data – Junior High
- D. Achievement Data – Elementary
- E. School Connectedness - CDC

Chart #4 – Reaching Consensus

Please respond as requested to each of the following statements/questions.
Responses will be noted as a small group consensus.

A. Might JA's Mission Statement need some tweaking to better define Academic Rigor as an important/enduring value of JA?

YES

Not Sure

No

B. List 3 words that should be in the definition of Academic Rigor

C. List 3 words that should NOT be in the definition of Academic Rigor?

D. What is going to be more difficult for JA?

a. Defining Academic Rigor, or

b. Implementing Academic Rigor

Give a reason(s) about your choice?