



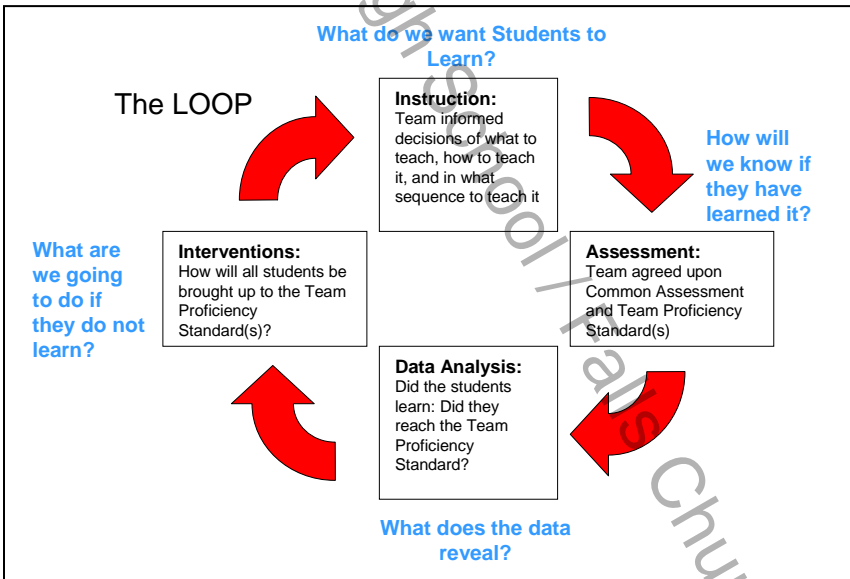
# George C. Marshall High School

## Developing a Professional Learning Community:

### *A Systematic Approach for Practitioners using Technology*

#### Background:

To ensure that we achieve our collective vision that all students will learn, three years ago the Marshall community made a conscious decision to develop a Professional Learning Community based on the work of Rick and Becky DuFour. As a result, we developed what is known as “The Loop,” a systematic approach for making decisions about what we want students to learn, how to assess that learning, how to analyze assessment data, and how to intervene when students do not learn:

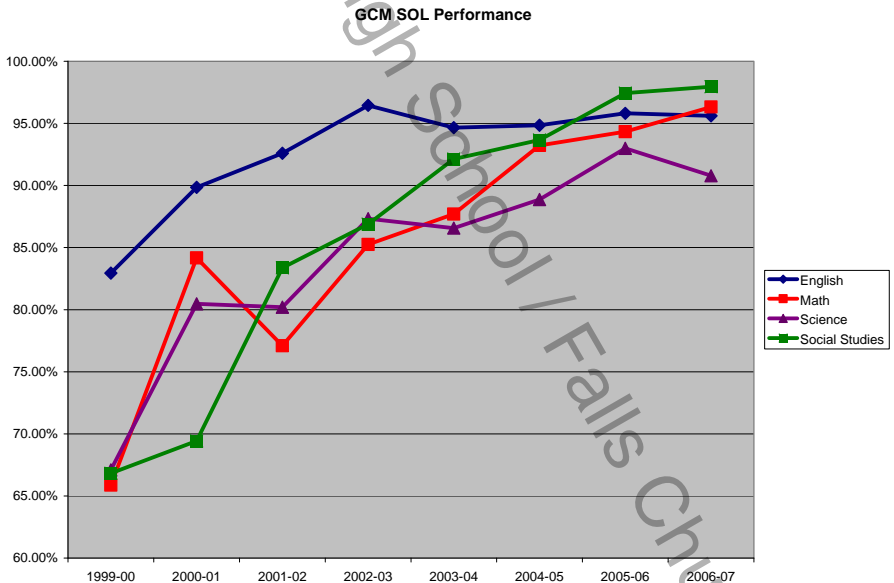


In support of that effort, we made two significant changes to our master schedule: we established teacher collaboration time on Friday mornings from 7:00 to 8:00 to support organized curriculum teams, and we established “Lunch & Learn” to provide time during the school day for students and teachers to access each other for academic assistance:

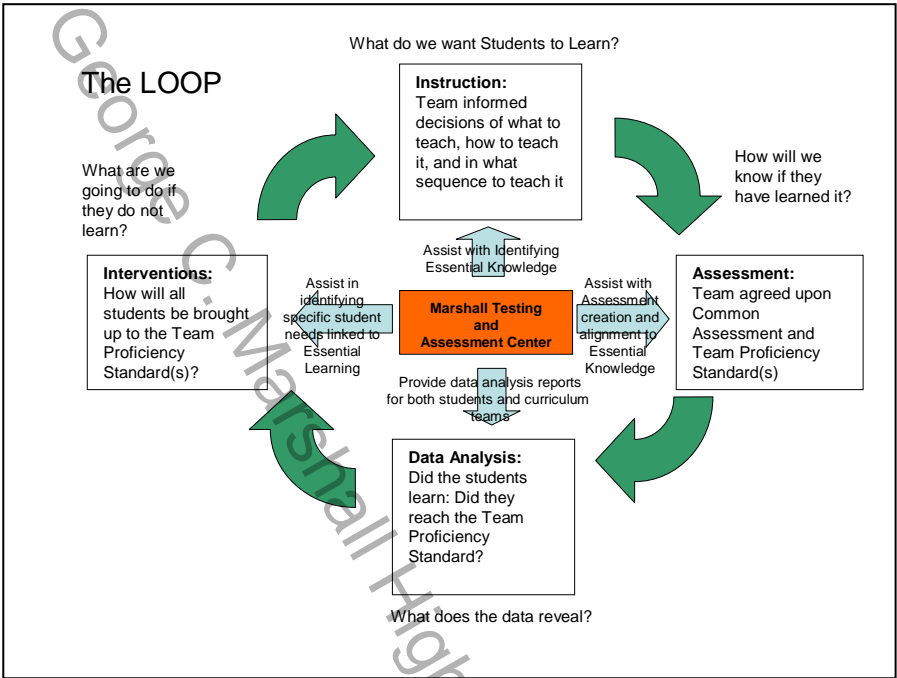
## BELL SCHEDULES 2006-2007

	Monday – Thursday Red/Blue Day			Friday Red/Blue Day			
	Start	End	Minutes	Teacher Collaboration	Start	End	Minutes
<b>1st Block Periods 1 &amp; 2</b>	7:20	8:55	95	<b>1st Block</b>	8:00	9:26	86
Passing/Break	8:55	9:05	10	Passing	9:26	9:32	6
<b>2nd Block Periods 3 &amp; 4</b>	9:05	10:41	96	<b>2nd Block</b>	9:32	10:58	86
<b>Lunch &amp; Learn</b>	10:41	11:41	60	<b>Lunch &amp; Learn</b>	10:58	11:51	53
<b>3rd Block Periods 5 &amp; 6</b>	11:41	1:16	95	<b>3rd Block</b>	11:51	1:17	86
Passing	1:16	1:23	7	Passing	1:17	1:23	6
<b>4th Block – Embedded Period 7</b>	1:23	2:10	47	<b>4th Block - Embedded</b>	1:23	2:10	47

Through these processes, we have had a dramatic positive impact on student learning:



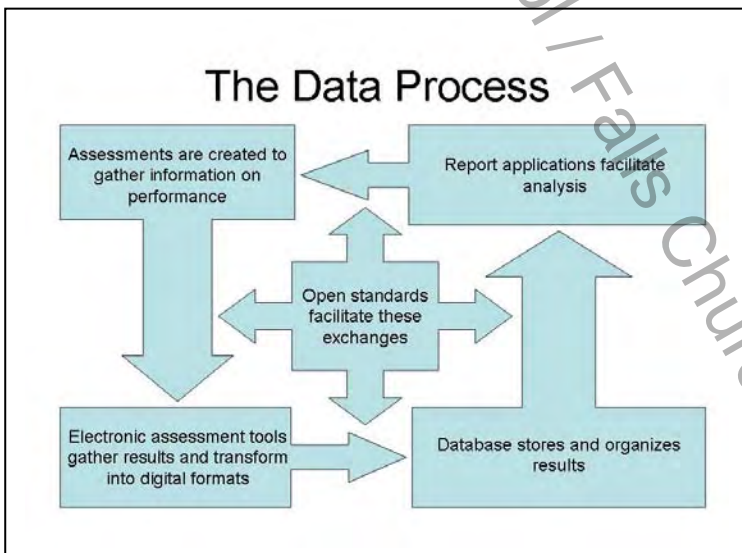
In the Spring of 2005 the Fairfax County School Board created an assessment coach position for each of the High Schools in the County. As a result of this initiative George C. Marshall High School has created the **Marshall Testing and Assessment Center (MTAC)**. The Goal of the MTAC is to facilitate Marshall's transition into a Professional Learning Community.



### Technology

Our focus has been in two areas:

- Providing assistance, expertise, and convenient tools to help teachers gather and analyze their own data, and
- Data fusion – bringing together different types and sources of data to help us make better decisions, from the individual student level up to the school-wide level.



## Resources:

### Efficacy

Ashton, Patricia T. & Rodman B. Webb, *Making a Difference: Teachers' Sense of Efficacy and Student Achievement*, Longman, 1986.

Hoy, Wayne K. – Efficacy Instruments - [http://www.coe.ohio-state.edu/whoy/instruments\\_6.htm](http://www.coe.ohio-state.edu/whoy/instruments_6.htm)

### Staff Development

Conzemius, Anne & Jan O'Neil, *The Handbook for SMART School Teams*, National Education Service, 2002.

DuFour, Richard, Robert Eaker, & Rebecca DuFour, *Power of Professional Learning Communities at Work: Bringing the Big Ideas to Life*. DVD - <http://www.solution-tree.com/Public/Media.aspx?ShowDetail=true&ProductID=VIF094>

O'Connor, Ken, *How to Grade for Learning: Linking Grades to Standards*, Lesson Lab, 2002.

Reeves, Douglas B., *Accountability in Action: A Blueprint for Learning Organizations*, Center for Performance Assessment, 2000. – <http://www.makingstandardswork.com/>

### Technology

Alexander, Michael, *Microsoft Access Data Analysis: Unleashing the Analytical Power of Access*, Wiley, 2006.

Hernandez, Michael J., *Database Design for Mere Mortals: A Hands-On Guide to Relational Database Design*, Addison Wesley Professional, 2003.

Test Generator – Fain and Co. – <http://www.testshop.com>

MySQL database server – <http://mysql.com/>

Microsoft SQL Server database server – <http://www.microsoft.com/sql/editions/express/default.msp>

Oracle 10g XE database server – <http://www.oracle.com/technology/products/database/xe/index.html>

Crystal Reports – Business Objects – <http://businessobjects.com/products/crystal/>

Pentaho business intelligence tools – <http://www.pentaho.com/>

OS4ED/OpenIntel data warehouse for education – <http://os4ed.com/>

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