

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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EVIDENCE OF COMPLIANCE FCPS OPERATIONAL EXPECTATION MONITORING REPORT

Function: Instructional Program and Treatment of Students

Operational Expectation: The Superintendent will provide a learning environment and program of instruction, drawing on innovative and best practices, aligned to achieve the School Board's goals and meet the community's expectation.

1. Provide equal educational opportunity in a safe, healthful, nondiscriminatory, and secure environment for all students.

Highlights –Evidence of Condition:

- ◆ Enrollment data broken out by subgroups and location of programs gives evidence of nondiscriminatory access to instructional programs and services.
- ◆ Enrollment in Career and Technical Education courses and fine arts elective course enrollments closely align to the division's demographics.
- ◆ Enrollment in advanced academic programs continues to grow overall and among all groups; however, gaps in subgroup enrollments remain.
- ◆ All school levels met their respective expectations in regard to serving at least 50 percent of their students with low incidence disabilities; elementary schools went from 93 percent to 95 percent and middle and high remained at 100 percent.
- ◆ On December 1, 2008, over half of FCPS students with disabilities participated in a general education classroom setting 80 to 100 percent of their school day, and 45 percent of students with low incidence (this excludes DD, LD, SL) disabilities participated in the general education classroom 80-100 percent of their school day.

2. Meet the needs of all students, addressing their diverse learning techniques and learning styles.

Highlights –Evidence of Condition:

- ◆ 188 of 190 Fairfax County public schools earned full accreditation from the Virginia Department of Education based on 2007-08 Standards of Learning (SOL) tests.
- ◆ Curriculum pacing guides for each of the four core areas are included in eCART and available to all teachers this school year.
- ◆ Division tests, catalog tests, and teacher made tests can all be done using the eCART components, and results can be seen by teachers giving online tests immediately and within a few days using paper and pencil.
- ◆ Three PMOC projects were implemented to codify the division philosophy regarding best instructional practices and school-based intervention strategies.
- ◆ Countywide staff development efforts have focused on closing the student achievement gap at the teacher and school-administrator level.

3. Improve instructional programs and services based on research and best practices, while encouraging innovation.

Highlights –Evidence of Condition:

- ◆ Program profiles are established to provide consistent program information to all instructional programs and services. Profiles document enrollment, instructional materials, and areas of focus for each program.
- ◆ PMOC project 1-2, Best Practices in Curriculum and Instruction, identifies a set of research-based best practices for curriculum and instruction that improves student learning and achievement and helps each child reach full academic potential.
- ◆ PMOC project 1-5, School-based Intervention Strategies, applies a common framework for designing a school-based pyramid of interventions.

- ◆ PMOC project 1-6, School Support, is designed to develop a common framework for providing additional financial support to low performing schools.
- ◆ New middle and high school course review included 1 new course for 2008-09 and 2 pilot courses.

4. Measure effectively each student's progress toward achieving or exceeding performance standards.

Highlights –Evidence of Condition:

- ◆ Results from a broad range of assessment instruments are available.
- ◆ Clusters, pyramids, and individual schools use assessment data as the basis for school improvement planning.
- ◆ Program managers use student assessment data to make informed decisions related to program changes and enhancements.
- ◆ PMOC projects supporting the use of authentic assessments include the mathematics reasoning assessment, global awareness technology, grade 6 fine arts assessment, life skills, service to the community, and eCART.
- ◆ The FCPS-designed electronic curriculum resource formative assessment system, eCART, was available divisionwide in the fall 2008 and is widely used by all teachers.
- ◆ FCPS has met and surpassed the annual measurable achievement objectives for LEP students.
- ◆ In 2008, students with disabilities demonstrated improved pass rates, with 77 percent of students with disabilities passing the SOL English tests.
- ◆ In 2008, students with disabilities demonstrated continued improvement in mathematics, with 68 percent of students with disabilities obtaining pass scores on the SOL mathematics tests.
- ◆ Currently over 4,000 teachers and staff are certified SEA-STARS users; All IEPs will be in SEA-STARS by December 09.

5. Maintain a climate characterized by support and encouragement by all adults for high student achievement and student well-being.

Highlights –Evidence of Condition:

- ◆ The FCPS Working Conditions Survey was administered to school-based licensed staff members by the Department of Human Resources during February and March 2008. Data indicate that 82 percent of respondents agree that the community is supportive of their schools; 72 percent of respondents agree that parents/guardians and community members contribute to student success in their schools; and 76 percent of survey respondents agree that “overall, my school is a good place to work and learn.”
- ◆ The 2008 Fairfax Youth Survey results indicate the largest increase in protective factors was found in the community domain for the community opportunities for pro-social involvement. The largest decline was in the family domain for the family attachment scale.
- ◆ The 2008 Fairfax Youth Survey results also indicate an increase in risk factors in the community disorganization scale and in sensation seeking. Early initiation of drug use and school academic failure showed a reduction in the percentage of students at high risk over time.

6. Maintain a safe and healthful learning environment free from disruption and violence.

Highlights –Evidence of Condition:

- ◆ On the 2008 FCPS Working Conditions Survey, data indicate that 88 percent of survey participants agree that teachers and staff work in a school environment that is safe; 85 percent of survey participants agree that the atmosphere of the school climate makes students feel safe; 58 percent of respondents agree that school leadership shields teachers from disruptions, allowing them to focus on educating students; and 72 percent agree that “students at this school understand expectations for their conduct.”
- ◆ The Healthy and Safe Life Choices project team implemented a revised health curriculum for grade 10 and revised the health curriculum for grade 3, with implementation of grade 3 curriculum planned for fall 2009.
- ◆ The 2008 Fairfax Youth Survey results were previously reported in operational expectation #5.
- ◆ The wellness plan was submitted to the state in July 2008.

7. Appropriately involve stakeholders in curriculum development and the selection of instructional materials.

Highlights –Evidence of Condition:

- ♦ The Annual Special Education Conference, which is specifically targeted to parents of students with disabilities, was held on April 25, 2009, at Marshall High School.
- ♦ Regional ESOL parent nights were held in the fall 2008 with over 2000 in attendance.
- ♦ Once the reorganization in ISD and DSS is complete and new offices are established, web sites will be revised for ease in navigation for stakeholders. Web sites will include frequently asked questions (FAQ) and a mechanism for feedback.
- ♦ No basal textbook adoption committee met in 2008-09.
- ♦ School Board Advisory Committee reports to the school board have been completed and presentations to the School Board by these committees are in progress.
- ♦ Several curricular areas called on local subject matter experts as advisors on new instructional initiatives including the MS GT task force, the development of the Mathematics Reasoning Assessment, and the Fine Arts assessments in grade 6. The creation of a stronger link to local subject matter experts is a very successful addition to the process of program improvements and will be continued.
- ♦ Supporting schools in outreaching to parents and community members about curriculum and instruction is a primary objective for 2009-10.