

Dixon High School - School Improvement Plan

Final Summary - 2009-2010 school year

Goal-1 Students will master the essential skills through a rigorous and challenging curriculum

1. DHS successfully implemented a Chinese curriculum in their Seminar time; additions for the 2010-2011 school year have already been completed
2. DHS has been accepted into the College Board Chinese Guest Teacher program; work is on-going in this area
3. PEP training was successfully completed; we identified several ways to possibly streamline our processes
4. While the DLCs were very successful during the first semester, other administrative needs took precedence over a few meetings in the spring, limiting the overall effectiveness; this is being looked at in terms of feasibility for next year
5. Introduction to Public Safety was very successful and will continue next year; the overall proficiency rate was 100%
6. 12th grade AVID students successfully completed an on-line Leadership course; next year's class has already registered for a college course for spring 2011
7. Science scores improved tremendously - Physical Science - 73.1% compared to 53.4% last year; Biology - 82.7%, compared to 61.9% last year
8. Algebra I continues to be a focus; while up from 54.5% last year to 67.9% this year, we will continue to work here
9. Fire Fighter Technology was very successful with an overall proficiency of - 90%; Fire Fighter III has been scheduled for 2011
10. USA Test Prep usage was benchmarked; we will push for greater implementation in 2010-2011
- 11.

Goal-2 Students will learn in a safe, orderly, and caring environment to make responsible decisions and healthy choices.

1. NC WISE was used successfully; issues still need to be addressed and the School Leadership Team and other school personnel are looking at ways to address them
2. All teachers successfully completed the year-long Teacher Evaluation Process training; initial administrative planning has begun for full implementation of the process in 2010-2011
3. USA Test Prep was utilized successfully during the year; increased usage will be a focus for 2010-2011
4. DHS has been accepted into the College Board Chinese Guest Teacher program and Mandarin Chinese will be offered in 2010-2011
5. The netbook initiative was implemented very successfully with the additional help of the full-time Instructional Technology Facilitator on campus; next year will truly show the impact of the technology in student achievement
- 6.

Goal-3 Dixon High School will recruit, select, and retain highly-qualified personnel.

1. DHS was assigned a new SRO early in the year; we will create and implement a drug awareness program in the early part of 2010-2011
2. Both administrators completed the county-wide, on-line safety response training
3. The R U Buckled program never took off and was removed from planning
4. The new seasonal supervision rotations seemed to be effective; students were located and redirected more frequently and fewer students appeared to be in locations where there was limited supervision; this will continue to be an area DHS will focus on
- 5.

Goal-4 All services will effectively contribute to the successful operation of the school system.

1. The administration, Lead Teacher, guidance counselors, and our staff as a whole worked diligently with students in danger of dropping out or of not graduating on time; parents were involved in the PEP process along with the entire staff
2. When it was possible, an exit survey was conducted to determine why students were leaving school; no overwhelming factor was identified as to "why".
3. AVID parent nights were tremendously successful in 2009-2010; parent participation increased tremendously
4. The reciprocal Chinese partnership school visit never took place; we are still working with the China Task Force to find ways to connect with the partnership school and establish on-line student/student and classroom/classroom exchanges for the 2010-2011 school year
- 5.

Goal-5 Parent and community involvement will provide support to the teaching/learning process.

1. A school-wide work order process was started and the work order form was made available to the entire staff; improvements on the prioritization process are still being addressed
2. Forms are still being placed in public folders

Summary

Overall, I believe our plan was successful over the past few years. There are areas that need to be addressed. Math has been and continues to be one of these areas. It is my hope the new integration of the netbooks will address some of these concerns in the future. The initial semester has shown potential, but our scores did not bear this out. With many of the hurdles being handled this year, the teachers will be able to focus on how to better deliver the content and monitor student successes. Science has been successful but it can still improve. Utilization of USA Test Prep across all areas will also be a focus.

Community involvement is another area of needed focus. I believe our new teacher and our Chinese partnership will improve campus communication as well as community outreach and involvement. Plans will be determined to bring more parents into the school for support and volunteer work.

The school leadership has identified the Media Center as a major focus for the next School Improvement cycle. We will be moving personnel locations to provide additional support and will dedicate more money to updating and modifying the Media Center. Our goal is to make it more inviting and student-centered. Utilization of the Media Center by more students, daily, will be part of the plan. We have large amounts of technology that is not being utilized.

I look forward to using the teacher evaluation instrument to address teacher growth and effectiveness. Since teachers are much more involved in the process of their own success, I believe they will be more successful at identifying areas of need and with administrative support, they will move towards professional growth. While it will be a large amount of work, teachers and DHS will benefit from the process.

Our academies have been slow to develop due to leadership direction as well as new curriculum items that have forced DHS to change some of its initial planning. We are looking at the correct direction for the PSA and ETA academies. New leadership in the ETA will hopefully provide a positive move in the correct direction. The administration will focus more of its time on assisting the directors and provide guidance for the future of the academies.

Finally, the dropout rate is a problem. DHS will continue to identify students at-risk of leaving school and attempt to redirect them. Without full parental support, this is a very difficult issue. Again, the hope is to identify students earlier and keep everyone involved in the student's success. The Graduation Cohort rate will also be addressed, but I believe keeping a student in school for an additional semester or even two in order to graduate is essential.