

Edina Public Schools

Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Achievement

Achievement Goals, Improvement Plans and Progress

Edina Public Schools has a long tradition of being an innovative and goal-driven school district. Since 1989, the district has used the strategic planning process to ensure continuous improvement and growth of its educational programs and services provided in the schools. This process of planning and managing its improvements has allowed the district to create a model in which we reach nationally and teach personally.

In February 2007, an advisory task force of 42 community and staff members worked with TeamWorks International, an educational consulting firm, to complete an internal and external data analysis. This included a review of:

- Student achievement results
- Financial and facility conditions
- Enrollment and demographic trends
- Curriculum patterns and offerings
- Community and school survey results

As a result of the findings, six strategic directions were defined:

- Maximizing student achievement
- Safe, inspiring and welcoming
- Students – responsible citizens and leaders
- Learning beyond the classroom
- Leadership expectations
- Maximize resources

A few actions are highlighted below that took place over the course of the past year to support the proposed strategic directions.

1. We will maximize the achievement of all students by developing and implementing coordinated plans for personalized learning for each student.

- A committee and other constituents evaluated the support programs that are offered to students throughout the district. Their charge was to make recommendations, revise, clarify and align the programs.
- A self-study was completed of the Gifted and Talented Program.
- Creek Valley, Countryside and Valley View agreed to pilot the Response to Intervention program for 2007-08.
- Staff continued to define the “best practices” of intervention services to meet the needs of students.
- Specific intervention strategies have been identified that all staff are expected to know and use in lesson design and assessments. They included Kansas Learning Strategies, mathematics differentiation, and reading comprehension strategies.

2. *We will work in partnership with the community to create a safe, inspiring and welcoming learning environment.*
 - We continue to partner with the Edina Community Council and Edina Resource Center on projects to support our children and families.
 - The role of the Welcome Center has continued to evolve to better meet the needs of new families in our district.
3. *We will work in partnership with the community to develop all students as responsible citizens and leaders.*
 - A committee analyzed ways for schools to strengthen the environmental recycling initiatives that are currently in place.
 - Normandale volunteered to incorporate recycling with their school lunch program.
 - The Connecting with Kids Positional Leaders Group revised the work plan and sponsored activities throughout the year to foster youth – community connections.
4. *We will work in partnership with the community to provide learning opportunities beyond the classroom through innovation and creativity.*
 - More online courses were added to the syllabus to better meet the personalized learning needs of students.
 - The technology department assessed the technology needs of each classroom throughout the district.
 - Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity (SEED) training continued and seminar offerings from West Metro Education Program were offered to Edina staff.
5. We will expand leadership expectations for all members of the school district.
 - It was determined that all faculty would participate in a Community of Practice for staff development over the course of 2007-08. A task force set the parameters and how it would align to action research.
 - An audit of the districts' policies was started.
6. *We will maximize the district's resources of time, talent and finances.*
 - A committee continued to look at the possible opportunities and challenges of designing and implementing the Alternative Teacher Professional Pay System (ATPPS) in Edina.
 - Based on the anticipated financial support, as a result of legislative action, a committee was formed to make budget reductions that had little or no impact on the students. The cuts would be implemented in 2007-08.
 - A plan was developed to link services and supports through the Edina Resource Center.

Each school's leadership team analyzed their data including test and survey results. They identified the areas that needed additional support and aligned them with the district's strategic plan. An improvement plan was then written which included a goal, action steps and evaluation process.

The school teams will attend the annual Data Retreat on September 25, 2007 to review their goals and accomplishments over the past year. This information along with their assessment data will guide them to develop 2007-2008 School Improvement Plans. The proposed goals will focus on student achievement and will be aligned to the Minnesota standards.