

MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

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Student Achievement Status Update – June 2009

The numbered headings in this report are referenced in the last column (Refer to) of the Student Achievement Action Plan Document.

1. Data Analysis and Reporting

- A Corrective Action Plan has been developed to address the 4 areas identified by the QSAC comprehensive district evaluation.

2. Curriculum articulation-vertical and horizontal and more flexible curriculum development design

- Alternate Specialized LEADS units completed for Elementary grades 3-5 and Middle School grades 6-8 Self-Contained Special Education Classes
- High School Re-Design Committees have begun development of new Humanities units for Grades 9-11, integrated English and History Standards, beginning with driving questions and including PBL's.
- Middle School Science Committee has begun work on revising the Science Curriculum, making connections to LEADS where possible.
- Elementary Math and Science Committees will be formed for 2009-10 to make inter-disciplinary connections.
- Kindergarten curricula will be extended for the full day schedule based on a center design. Social skills will be explicitly taught within the curriculum.
- An *Affective Education Committee* will begin in the summer of 2009 to identify research proven, "best practice" models of teaching appropriate social skills development in grades K-12.

3. Pedagogical Systematic Change

- Full Day Kindergarten will be implemented district-wide for the 2009-10 school year, with the help of ARRA / IDEA funds to maximize opportunities for children with disabilities to be included with their non-disabled peers. The success of the integrated preschool resulted in students recommended for the general education setting if a full day kindergarten model, designed for inclusion, were made available.
- The High School Re-Design will change pedagogy from textbook-driven to standards-based, with differentiated materials to address the varied levels of student abilities. A block design will be piloted in high school Humanities classes.

4. Systems and Assessment

- The *Number Knowledge Test* will be used as a formative assessment in mathematics for K-2 and for all students who receive special education services.
- *Learnia* is being considered in grades 3-8 as a formative assessment of math.
- *PowerSchool* will become the new student information system that will facilitate communication of student assessment data to parents and teachers at all levels.

5. Professional Development

- Summer Camps will be provided for all High School Teachers who did not take the 08-09 "New Designs for College Readiness Course".
- Week-long summer training will be held for teachers of mathematics in grades K-12, based on the Annenberg Media study on articulation of math standards through the grades.
- All early childhood teachers will have a week of in-service for the new design of full-day kindergarten.

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- Spring 2009 IDEA/LEADS training for any teacher who missed the original trainings or need further training.

6. Technology

- ARRA/IDEA funds, combined with local funds, will be used for improving the general infrastructure to support constantly increasing demands to integrate technology into the curriculum.
- Committees of teachers and administrators are working on policies and procedures to facilitate teacher and student use of technology, including the piloting of students' bringing personal, portable technology into school.
- The elementary computer "special" will be delivered in the classrooms instead of in a separate computer lab to better integrate technology into the curriculum.

7. Pre-K to Kindergarten

- Preschool Expansion Funds were appropriately solicited, but the NJDOE changed funding guidelines and will only fund low SES districts in 09-10.
- The district's half-day integrated preschool will be expanded to 5 days per week in 2009-10.
- A giant leap will be made using a combination of reconfiguration of staff (from Multi-age, Kindergarten LLD plus other positions from demographic and enrollment changes), along with ARRA/IDEA funds to bring full-day Kindergarten to all schools for 2009-10.