

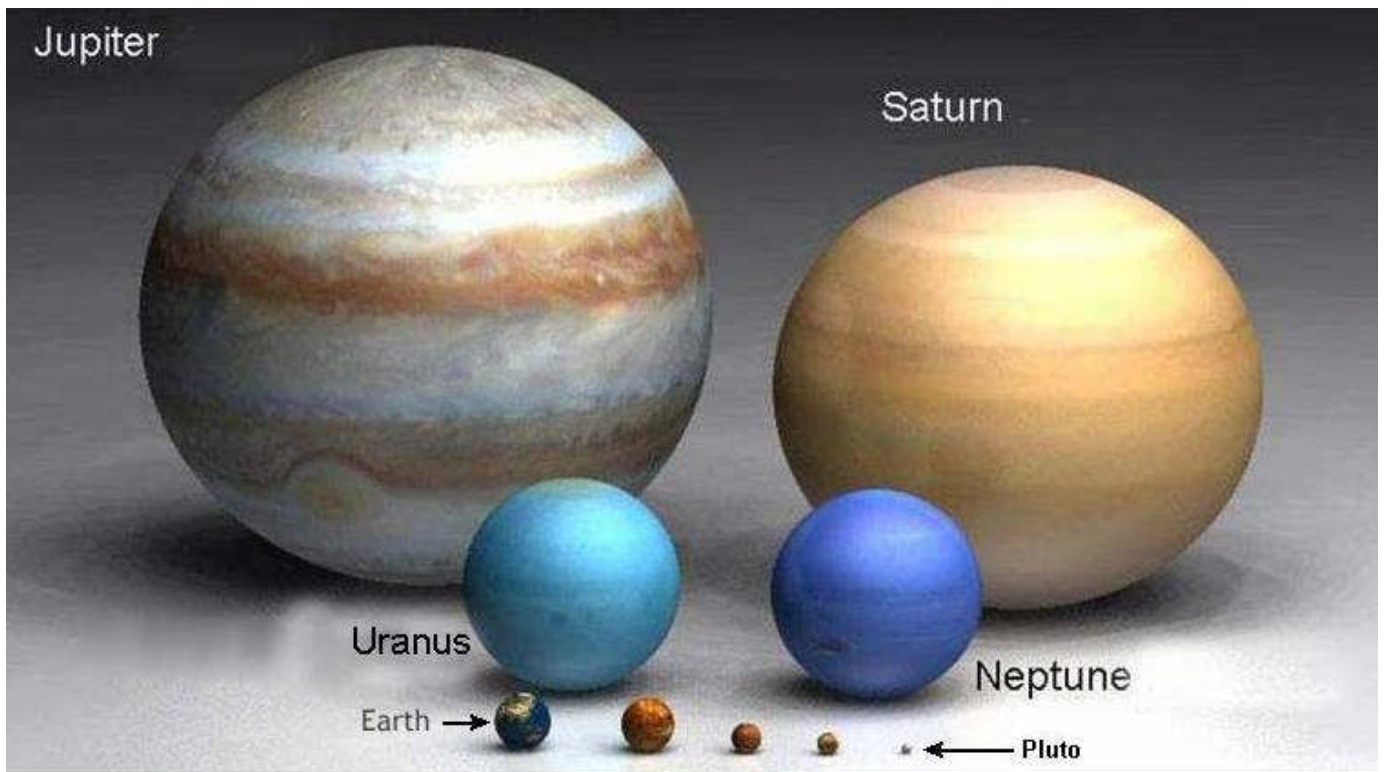
**GREER MIDDLE SCHOOL
GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
GREER, SC**

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT CONTINUUMS ASSESSMENT

23 May 2008

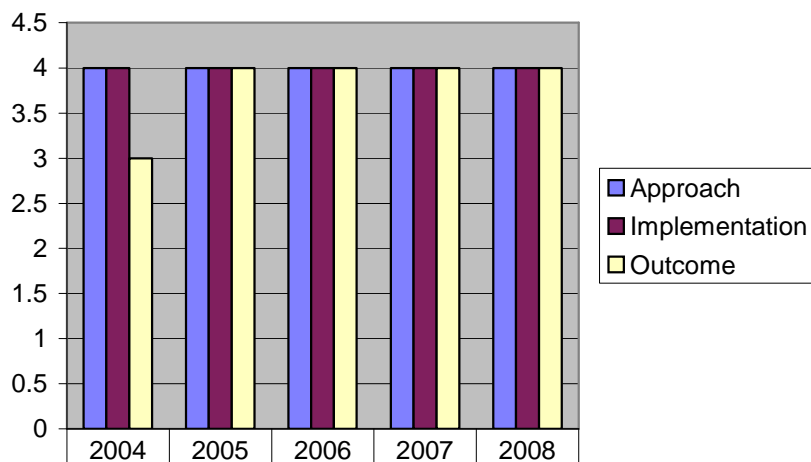
On the above date, members of teams at Greer Middle School updated their assessment of the school using the School Portfolio Continuous Improvement Continuums.

Team members discussed why they thought their school belonged in the area where they rated it. There was a good deal of thought and reflection as each team deliberated during their meeting.



After the dots were applied to the continuum there was a period of discussion followed by a consensus on each point. The team then came to consensus on a number that represented where the school is for each element. Each team reported the results to the instructional coach who compiled the results. The ratings and a brief summary of the discussion for each Continuous Improvement Continuum follow.

Information and Analysis



Approach	4	4	4	4	4
Implementation	4	4	4	4	4
Outcome	3	4	4	4	4

Information and Analysis

Greer Middle School staff rated their school a 4 in Approach, 4 in Implementation, and 4 in Outcome with respect to Information and Analysis. Staff agreed that much data exists on student's backgrounds and on their performance. More data is becoming

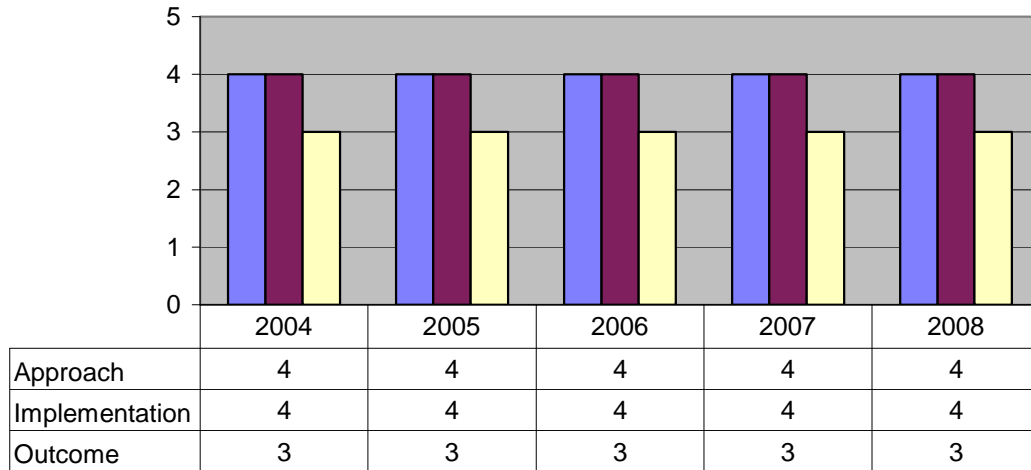
available through MAP testing, State Report Cards, EASE-e and the surveys that teachers, administration and staff are providing for students and teachers. This data is being used to analyze classes and subgroups to determine gaps in achievement and strategies to address those gaps. Vertical articulation with Greer High School occurs on a regular basis and the International Baccalaureate program has increased our conversations.

Next Steps

Our Staff agreed that the following needs to happen at the school level with respect to Information and Analysis:

- Track state test scores of specific groups of students
- Increase vertical conversations about curriculum and programs offered with elementary and high school
- More specific information from data about student strengths and weaknesses
- Provide specific data about challenge and algebra I students
- Learn to utilize MAP data more effectively in guiding instruction.

Student Achievement



Student Achievement

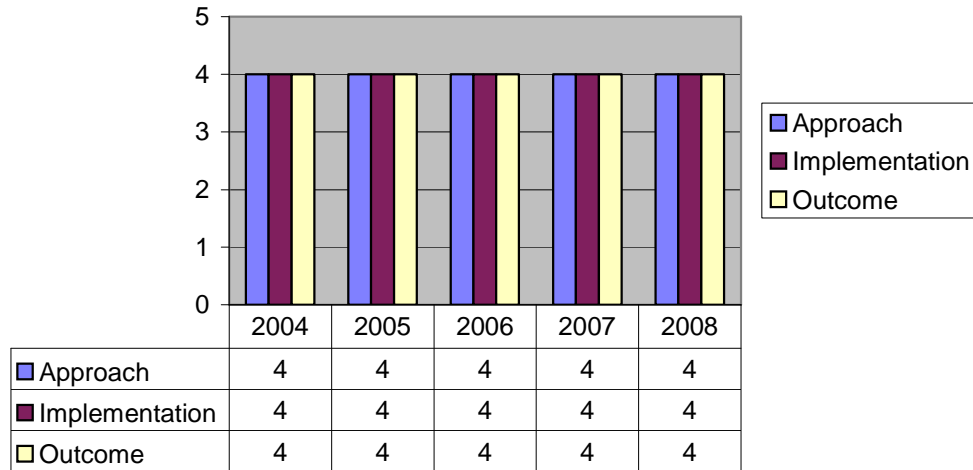
Greer Middle School staff rated their school a 4 in Approach, 4 in Implementation, and 3 in Outcome with respect to Student Achievement. Our staff believes that with school wide implementation of Learning Focus strategies that teachers are studying proven, effective instruction and assessment techniques.. Using a combination of department meetings and team meetings, student data is being used to improve learning in our school. Communication has increased between students and teachers about student learning. Technology is being heavily integrated into the curriculum to exercise higher level thinking skills and text discussions of books like “*Classroom Management that Works*” and “*Classroom Instruction that Works*” were held to improve student achievement.

Next Steps

Staff agreed that the following needs to happen at the school level with respect to Student Achievement:

- Need proven strategies to involve more parents in student achievement
- Make greater use of service learning and teacher cadet classes from the high school
- Increase use of interdisciplinary units
- Continue proven, research based instruction programs
- Develop a program of attendance and academic incentives.

Quality Planning



Quality Planning

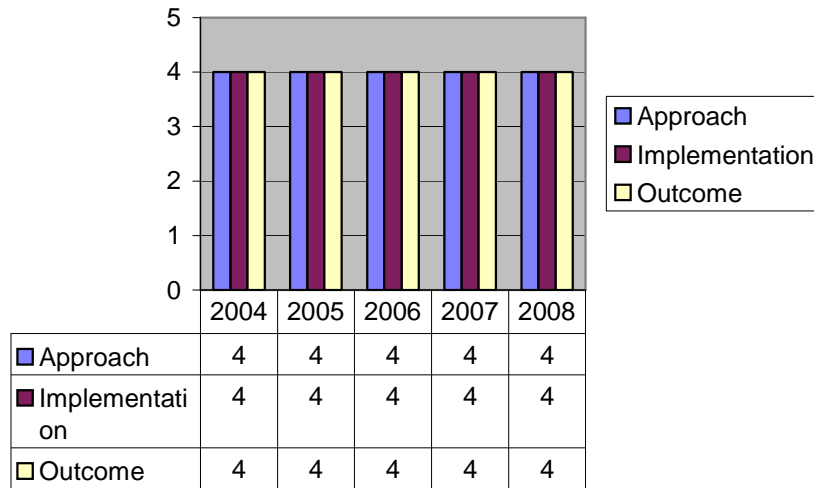
Greer Middle School staff rated their school a 4 in Approach, 4 in Implementation, and 4 in Outcome with respect to Quality Planning. Our teachers looked to the district model of the educational plan *Priorities for Performance* in stating that there was a focused and integral plan for school improvement. Also the Greer Middle School portfolio has become our primary plan for improving the school. It is a continuous cycle of improvement and contains our improvements plan with objectives and strategies.

Next Steps

Staff agreed that the following needs to happen at the school level with respect to Quality Planning:

- Promote the portfolio school wide improvement plan;
- Involve parents, community, and business; through SIC and PTSA
- Enlist parent volunteers to assist in the classroom and recordkeeping duties.
- Quality effective communication which would involve more succinct meetings and greater use of email
- Parent conferences held at times and intervals to be more user friendly

Professional Development



Professional Development

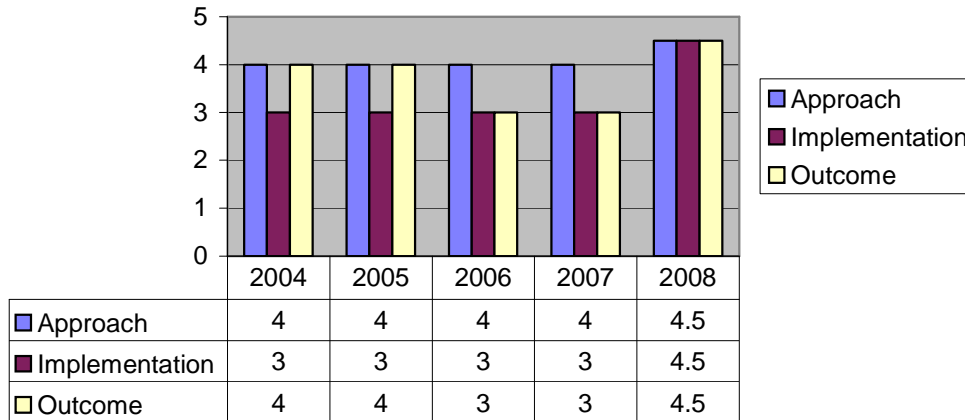
Greer Middle School staff rated their school a 4 in Approach, 4 in Implementation, and 4 in Outcome with respect to Professional Development. Our teachers agreed that with Learning Focus training and implementation, proven research based techniques are being introduced into the classroom. The school plan and the needs of the students drive professional development. Our staff attends in-services to continue to use and improve upon best practices in the classroom and become proficient in the latest uses of technology in the classroom. The individual team setting is a great platform for increasing the effectiveness of professional development and many of our sessions are developed with teams in mind. TNT sessions integrated during the school day are effectively used to present teacher training during the most productive times for teachers.

Next Steps

Staff agreed that the following needs to happen at the school level with respect to Professional Development:

- Track the use (and usefulness) of specific programs;
- Articulate programs school wide; such as Learning Focus and IB units;
- Continue to provide workshops to improve technology awareness and implementation;
- Implement effective discipline plan;
- Continue to develop an array of classroom management strategies;

Leadership



Leadership

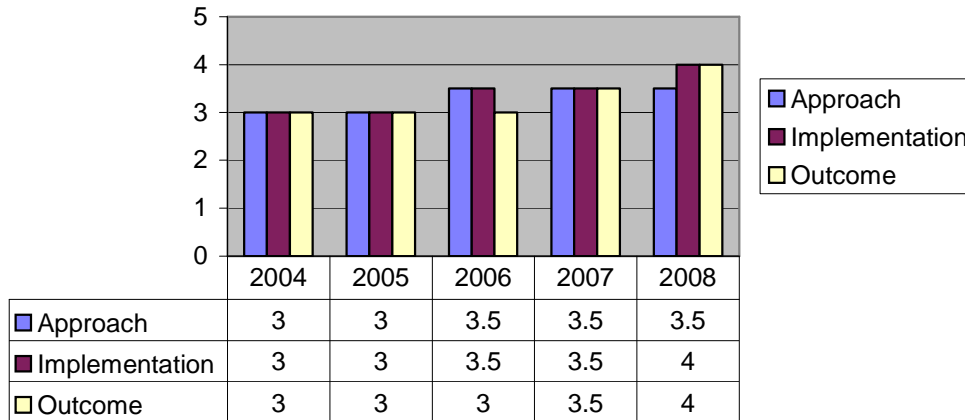
Greer Middle School staff rated their school a 4.5 in Approach, 4.5 in Implementation, and 4.5 in Outcome with respect to Leadership. Our current approach to leadership is to engage more people in the process. Our leadership team has been revised to include administrators, guidance and instructional coaches. The faculty and staff cooperatively developed our mission statement and our beliefs about student learning. The school leadership is committed to quality planning and continuous school improvement. Evidence of this exists in the structure of our leadership model and in the updates of our portfolio.

Next Steps:

Staff agreed that the following needs to happen at the school level with respect to Leadership:

- ◆ Continue to provide the latest in technology
- Protect planning time for teams
- Use scheduling to promote teaming and interdisciplinary units ;
- Improve morale of staff
- Provide a school-wide, safe, learning environment for all students.

Partnership Development



Partnership Development

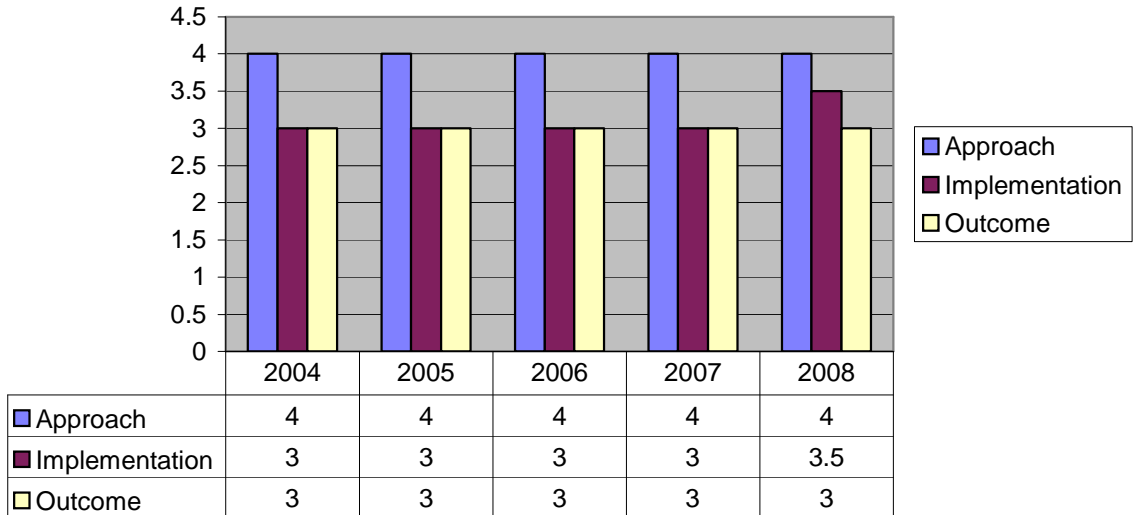
Greer Middle School staff rated their school a 3.5 in Approach, 4 in Implementation, and 4 in Outcome with respect to Partnership Development. We have partnerships including: Greer Athletic Club, the Greer Police Department and Greer Christian Learning Center. Our teachers know why partnerships are desirable and want to create more partnerships as a way of involving the community in our school. The experience and expertise of the community can be greatly utilized in partnership situations. We have received some donated equipment but our school feels that more consistent involvement, especially involvement that is beneficial to both parties, is needed. Greer Middle School desires to cultivate more partners with the community. Our Career Development Facilitators have been very instrumental in creating more partnerships with our community by hosting job fairs, bringing in speakers, implementing effective shadowing programs, and creating video interviews with local companies.

Next Steps:

Staff agreed that the following needs to happen at the school level with respect to Partnership Development:

- Investigate SIC and PTSA for opportunities in partnership development;
- Promote benefits of partnership for business;
- Create visibility for current partners;
- Assist Career Development Facilitators in developing partnerships.

Continuous Improvement and Evaluation



Continuous Improvement and Evaluation

Greer Middle School staff rated their school a 4 in Approach, 3.5 in Implementation, and 3 in Outcome with respect to Continuous Improvement and Evaluation. Overall our staff is positive about change and observes some beneficial changes taking place. All agreed that we need to improve in the areas of implementation and outcome for improvements to be more effective.

Next Steps

Staff agreed that the following needs to happen at the school level with respect to Continuous Improvement and Evaluation:

- Evaluate all elements of the school with an eye on the goals of the strategic plan;
- Implement specific strategies for student achievement
- Use team planning periods to evaluate instructional strategies;
- Be consistent in evaluation with surveys of teachers, parents, students;
- Know the demographics of classroom from the beginning of the school year.;
- Check assessment guidelines from district and percent of spreadsheet in assessments.