

## QUALITY PLANNING

In the school year 2009-2010, Washington Center staff developed a five-year vision that continues to drive our programs and future plans. Due to our student population, our vision branches into many functional programs that promote academic progress. As a special education program, Washington Center is now included in the SACS review, and participates in ACT 135 requirements. In support of the Greenville School District's focus, we formulated goals based on student academic progress, staff quality and community involvement. From this vision, we developed goals, objectives, and strategies for our students. These are summarized in our comprehensive school-wide improvement plan through 2015, presented on the following pages.

### Planning Time

In the past, we traditionally grouped for our weekly Wednesday faculty meetings after school. These meetings usually consisted of event scheduling and announcements. In addition, we had ten days per year scheduled by the district for in-service and professional development. Our staff development needs were unique to our student population and not parallel with training traditionally provided for regular education teachers working with higher functioning students. Workdays were used for class preparations and planned staff development. Planning time with our Para-professionals was restricted due to their limited number of workdays, salaried time obligations and bus driver duties.

In order to review our school mechanics and implement our vision, it became necessary to create more meeting and planning time. Faculty meetings were scheduled for the first and third Wednesdays of each month. The second Wednesday was reserved for team/group meetings to update the Strategic Plan. The faculty was divided into three groups according to the instructional category and age of students. In-group assignments were made to develop the Strategic Plan. On the last Wednesday of each month, representatives from each group meet with our leaders to share group progress in the preparation of our Strategic Plan. Monthly Para-professional meetings with our principal provided an opportunity for the non-certified staff to stay informed and be informed about school operations.

## **Impact**

We have always valued our teamwork for implementing instruction. Involving each staff member in working toward our vision has also proven productive in being a part of the team. Our vision was already on a solid foundation. However, disaggregated data has highlighted several issues that are contributing to our program awareness. The process has given us incentive to prepare for pending student needs and issues. It has also pinpointed areas where staff needs intensive in-service: new teacher support, writing more informative progress reports, maintaining technology proficiency, training Refresh in technology, expanding augmentative communication programs, strategies for behavior management, providing standards-based materials for Social Studies and Biology.

## **Summary of Progress**

The analysis of data and scrutiny of our programs revealed both positive and inefficient aspects of our school. In order to implement our vision, we are planning in-services, enhancements of current programs and improved teamwork.

## **Review of Quality Planning**

We plan to support our quality planning goals by providing support through a variety of procedures. Our new teachers will receive mentoring and support through the ADEPT process. Guidance is provided for certificate renewals. We strictly adhere to PAS-T district guidelines and concentrate on Cycle 5 successful completion as required for teaching certification. Professional development is included in our strategies by providing specialized training in technology, communication, and instructional strategies as required for our student population. Our technology training along with attendance at district sponsored workshops provide opportunities to maintain certification in technology proficiency. With the implementation of the district's Refresh cycle in 2011-12, Washington Center's technology will be updated and revised. Training will be offered for staff on Windows 07 and Microsoft Office 2010.

For Student Achievement, all of our students participating in SC-Alt will maintain 50% or more in levels 2-4 for all subject areas as defined in the five-year rotation of the school strategic plan. Staff will be trained in the use and implementation of the testing procedures and will continue to add SC curriculum standards in teaching lessons. Technology and standards-based materials will be purchased to supplement instruction.

Ninety-five percent of our student population will maintain a mastery level of 80% or more based on IEP objectives. Support will be provided through progress report reviews, IEP updates, and amendment procedures. All teachers will receive annual training and will maintain valid teaching certificates with “Highly Qualified” status.

We plan to improve school climate through 2013 by enhancing parent and community involvement. An improved perception for home/school communication will be measured by a yearly parent survey. Parents will be invited and encouraged to participate in the BIGmack Literacy Program, IEP conferences, Meet Your Teacher Day, and parent support seminars. Families and the community will be invited to attend special events such as “Walk and Roll.” Funding will be provided by district money supplemented by grants, donations, and business partnerships.

## **Next Steps**

We plan to identify methods to accentuate the positive aspects of our student-centered curriculum. We will analyze our progress regularly reaffirming our commitment to our students, families and district. In order to continue our positive momentum, our staff agreed to:

- Expand involvement of partnerships with parents and the community
- Involve staff members in formulating research-based instructional strategies and technologies
- Add to our resources of standards-based instructional strategies and materials
- Develop revised surveys to more adequately reflect the needs of our unique program

- Continue to establish partnerships with our community businesses
- Continue the “Walk and Roll” as an annual event to enhance community awareness and to generate donations for the school
- Increase strategies for staff recognition and morale enhancement
- Continue dedicated support for new teachers
- Research and acquire technology for appropriate instruction in standards-based activities
- Provide district training for the new technology offered by the Refresh Program
- Continue Sensory-Motor strategies workshops and speech therapy support
- Continue support and representation for standards-based assessments on the school, district and state levels
- Enhance our strategies to meet the demands of student behavioral challenges
- Continue our development of standards-based unit development
- Expand the augmentative communication training program
- Continue use of strategies, such as book studies and recognition, to improve staff morale