

Strategic Planning 2009-2014

Academic Standards and Assessment

Midpoint Review

Academic Standards and Assessment

Technology

Professional Development

Special Education

Teacher Induction

Student Services

Academic Standards and Assessment

- Description of Community
- Mission*
- Vision*
- Shared Values*
- Academic Standards*
- Strategic Planning Committee
- Data*
- Goals, Strategies, Activities*
 - Measurable Annual Improvement Targets
 - Curriculum , Instruction and Materials
 - Targeted Assistance for Struggling Students
- Assessment and Public Reporting*
- Parent Involvement
- Qualified Teachers and Leaders

Academic Standards and Assessment

Mission Statement

- Believing that each individual can learn, the Butler Area School District, in partnership with families and in cooperation with the community, is committed to creating a safe, positive and stimulating environment that accords each person dignity and respect, provides equal opportunities to learn, encourages excellence, and develops responsible citizens who are life-long learners prepared for life in a changing global society.

Academic Standards and Assessment

Vision

- Through the use of school and community resources, each student will have the opportunity to learn with the support of his/her school, community, and family.
- Through effective professional development, teachers will continue to attain knowledge, strategies, and resources to provide students with the opportunity to become successful life-long learners.
- Family, school, and community will continue to encourage excellence in each student and staff member, providing equal opportunities to all, so that each student can reach his/her full potential.
- The District is committed to use technology to bring together parents, school, and students in order to create members of a global community that are capable of using technology as a tool to enhance life-long learning.

Academic Standards and Assessment

Shared Values

- Each individual can learn.
- Learning is a life-long process.
- High expectations encourage optimal individual achievement.
- Excellence deserves recognition.
- An educated citizenry ensures a strong foundation for a democratic society.
- Providing equal opportunities for all students encourages individual success.
- Learning is most effective in a safe, positive, and stimulating environment.

Academic Standards and Assessment

Academic Standards

- The State academic standards delineate the knowledge and skills that students are expected to demonstrate. State assessments in mathematics, reading, science and writing are administered district-wide in grades 3 through 8 and 11. These assessments provide data so that adjustments can be made in curriculum, assessment, and remediation plans in order to improve opportunities for student success.
- The District's Curriculum Council will continue to work through its seven-year planning cycle. This structure provides a schedule and outlines a process for curriculum alignment to State standards, curriculum mapping, benchmarking, K-12 curriculum articulation, as well as a review of state and local achievement results, exemplary program, best practices, and the strengths and weaknesses of the current program.

Academic Standards and Assessment

Academic Standards

- The district's seven-year curriculum planning cycle is consistent with approved state standards in the following subject areas:
 - – Mathematics
 - – Language Arts
 - – Science and Technology, Environment and Ecology
 - – Social Studies
 - – Arts and Humanities
 - – Career Education and Work
 - – Health, Safety, and Physical Education
 - – Family and Consumer Sciences
 - – World Languages

Academic Standards and Assessment

Data Collection and Review

- PSSA (<http://www.portal.state.pde.us> or the Butler Area School District web page)
- E-metric
- Performance Tracker
- Local Assessment Data (Stanford Achievement, Otis-Lennon, Differential Aptitude Test, screening instruments, classroom assessments)

Academic Standards and Assessment

Goals, Strategies, and Activities

- Academic Standards
 - Curriculum
 - Assessment
 - Participation in State Assessments
 - Attendance / Graduation Rate

Progress and Accomplishments

Action Plan Progress

Curriculum – Goal 1:

Develop and maintain an articulated curriculum, k-12, that ensures that at each transitional level our students have the opportunity to successfully achieve our academic goals and the State standards while continuing to work toward the successful completion of the District's graduation requirements.

Progress and Accomplishments

Action Plan Progress

Curriculum – Goal 1: Secondary Program

- ❑ Through curriculum review cycle, all curricular areas are aligned with State standards (*curriculum cycle -- completed science and business education, pending: mathematics and foreign language, beginning an online curriculum mapping process*)
- ❑ Additional math and reading teachers were added through the Accountability Block Grant (*continue but with reduction of funding*)
- ❑ Students are identified who need assistance with math and reading (*continue PSSA preparation classes*)
- ❑ Intensive supplemental tutoring is provided in small groups using PSSA materials (*continue*)
- ❑ A comprehensive reading intervention program is being implemented for grades 7-10 (*continued success with the Language! program*)

Progress and Accomplishments

Action Plan Progress

Curriculum – Goal 1: Secondary Program

Graduation Requirements – In addition to the current graduation requirements, each student must demonstrate proficiency in reading and mathematics on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) or on a District assessment, or provide evidence of proficiency in reading and math as determined by the District. (*Keystone Exam Impact - policy change and grade calculation change*)

A student may be required to schedule a mathematics course in the senior year, even if the three required mathematics credits have been earned.

Progress and Accomplishments

Action Plan Progress

Curriculum – Goal 1: Elementary Program

- Revised curriculum to ensure materials are current with best practices, research, and State standards (*curriculum cycle*)
- Implemented literacy, math, and science coaches to support consistency in delivery of curriculum, to support non-tenured teachers, work alongside classroom teachers in order to demonstrate and recommend effective instructional strategies. (*eliminated due to significant reduction in Block Grant funding*)
- Develop Pacing Charts and Curriculum Maps in order to identify essential skills, nine-week benchmarks, weekly planning guides, requirements of content. (*completed online curriculum maps for math and science; continue work on language arts and social studies*)

Progress and Accomplishments

Action Plan Progress

Curriculum – Goal 1: Elementary Program - Reading

- Added 8 reading specialists through the District's Accountability Block Grant to:
 - Reduce class size during language arts instruction for students in grades k-3 (*continued with 7 reading specialists*)
 - Implement intensive remediation for at-risk students (*incorporated new materials for reading remediation, inclusive strategies to meet the needs of all students*)
 - Provide year-long progress monitoring for all students in grades k and 1, and for at-risk students in grades 2 and 3 (*continue with all students in grades k-3*)
 - Support the national goal that **ALL STUDENTS WILL READ ON GRADE LEVEL BY THE END OF THIRD GRADE** (*implemented new language arts curriculum*)

Progress and Accomplishments

Action Plan Progress

Curriculum – Goal 1: Elementary Program – Mathematics

- Edition 3 of Everyday Mathematics (*off cycle, staff dev. and implementation completed*)
- Math Fact tracking in k-6 (*implemented with materials online for all teachers to use as part of the curriculum map*)
- Hands-on Equations (*required a “Hands-on Equations unit for all 5th and 6th grade students; staff dev. and materials completed*)
- Power Teaching (*36 teachers were trained to implement this instructional strategy*)
- Mapping (*completed*)

Progress and Accomplishments

Action Plan Progress

Curriculum – Goal 1: Elementary Program – Science

- Partnership with ASSET Pittsburgh
- Update of Materials, Strategies, and Assessments (*updated teacher's manuals and supplemental student readers for science*)
- Mapping (*completed*)

Progress and Accomplishments

Action Plan Progress

Assessment – Goal 2:

Develop and maintain a standardized assessment program that includes varied and appropriate assessments that will allow the Butler Area School District educational community to make informed decisions regarding curriculum, programs, and student achievement that support the success of every child.

Progress and Accomplishments

Action Plan Progress

Assessment – Goal 2: Secondary Program

- 4-Sights Benchmark Assessment in grades 7 - 11 in mathematics and reading, given quarterly
 - Reliable and valid
 - Helps identify specific strengths and weaknesses
 - Helps predict student success on the PSSA

(continue to be implemented, new update available)
- Teacher-made assessments with more PSSA-like questions
- *Preparation for the Keystone Exams*

Progress and Accomplishments

Action Plan Progress

Assessment – Goal 2: Elementary Program

- Implemented progress monitoring in reading for students in grades k-3
 - *Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) – Oral reading, retelling, and decoding (updated screening assessments for language arts i.e., DIBELS NEXT)*
 - *Core Phonics Survey, STAR Reading Placement, and MAZE (purchased and implemented Core Phonics, eliminated STAR, purchased and implemented MAZE)*
- Updated the PA 4-Sights Benchmark Assessment in grades 3 through 6 in mathematics and reading (*new update available*)
 - Reliable and valid
 - Helps identify specific strengths and weaknesses
 - Helps predict student success on the PSSA

Progress and Accomplishments

Action Plan Progress

Assessment – Goal 2: Elementary Program

- District assessments in mathematics for students in grades 1-6
 - Required Unit assessments
 - Math Fact Tests
 - Constructed response items and scoring guides
 - Scaffolded
 - Open-ended (*continue to be implemented*)

Technology Plan

Action Plan Progress

Technology – Goals 1-2

- Goal 1: Establish a technology-based learning center accessible to or contained within every classroom

Some Actions Taken: Upgrade of computers as needed in all buildings; Additional video projectors; Classrooms for the Future Project expanded; Teaching With Technology Grant Program; Netbooks/Laptops added to all schools

- Goal 2: Establish building-wide data/voice/video networks connecting classrooms, computer labs, library media center, and administrative offices within every school

Some Actions Taken: Wireless Networks in all buildings; Mobile netbook or laptop carts

Technology Plan

Action Plan Progress

Technology – Goals 3-4

- Goal 3: Establish a wide area network connecting all District schools and the Harriger Educational Services Center
Some Actions Taken: Switched, converged data/voice/video network; All schools on wide area network, server virtualization
- Goal 4: Utilize the library media center, computer laboratory, and/or radio/T.V. production center at every school to support the District's curriculum and enhance the availability of technology
Some Actions Taken: On-line Library Resources and catalog; TV production at 4 elementary and 3 secondary schools; upgrade of video production equipment; moved the management of AR to the elementary libraries.

Technology Plan

Action Plan Progress

Technology – Goals 5-6

- Goal 5- Establish a comprehensive plan to address the organization, maintenance, and assessment of current and future hardware, software, and peripheral equipment

Some Actions Taken: District Technology Plan revised and approved by PDE through 2008; New plan for 2011 – 2014 in development; monthly Instructional Technology Committee meetings; annual needs assessment by building and departments

- Goal 6 – Provide appropriate technology in-service training for all District personnel

Some Actions Taken: Classrooms for the Future, Fast ForWord, Performance Tracker, Edline, GradeQuick, Earobics; Study Island; Online Professional Development available through Moodle

Technology Plan

Action Plan Progress

Technology – Goals 7-8

- Goal 7- Establish a curriculum review and development procedure in which technology applications are identified and integrated into each planned course

Some Actions Taken: Standards-based, K-6, computer curriculum and curriculum map accessible to all teachers; Technology integration into all planned courses;

- Goal 8 – Develop district-wide integrated information processing and communication procedures in all administrative areas including student records management, financial records management, and personnel records management

Some Actions Taken: Assessment tracking – Performance Tracker; Payroll and Personnel database – ProSoft; Transportation automation – VersaTrans; IEP Writer, Edline, GradeQuick; Rapid call notification system - AlertNow

Technology Plan

Action Plan Progress

Technology – Goals 9-11

- Goal 9- Establish partnerships with the business community to link students and staff with technology in the workplace

Some Actions Taken: T.V. production experience, Channel 50

- Goal 10 – Establish a technology-based link between the home and the school

Some Actions Taken: Edline; Web Site revision, Summer Robotics Program; Butler Virtual Academy; ProSource student demographic/emergency contact updates; online report cards

- Goal 11 – Establish personnel resources to assist with further development and implementation of the Technology Plan

Some Actions Taken: Addition of 3 technicians; On-line work order process, HELP desk; peer-to-peer staff development; online professional development