

BURR DISTRICT ELEMENTARY CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2011-2012

- Literacy, Numeracy, Developing External and Internal Community
 - Goal: (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-Bound)
 - Background: What data or evidence exists to support that this is an important issue to work on?
 - Action Plan: What steps will be taken? What is the timeline for these steps?
 - Progress Monitoring: How will we know that progress is being made? How/When will our action plan be adjusted if necessary?

GOAL: STUDENTS WILL IMPROVE THEIR LITERACY SKILLS AS MEASURED BY DISTRICT AND STATE ASSESSMENTS

- Two main objectives:
 - Students will increase their reading stamina
 - Students will increase their writing stamina

BACKGROUND LITERACY

- We have made great strides in literacy as measured by state assessments:
 - 16 percent more of our children are now reading at state goals than they were 5 years ago.
 - 21 percent more of our children are now writing at state goals.
- However, still one of every five students is not meeting the state goal.
- We have worked to add a strong phonological component to our primary instruction and now have small group reading instruction at every grade level.
- Current and compelling research is now suggesting that the greatest lever we have to improve reading and writing is to have students read and write more.

ACTION PLAN LITERACY

- Reading:
 - Students will be reading independently during more of the day.
 - Teachers will level their classroom library.
 - Grades 3 and 4 will participate in more literature circles
 - Students will respond to their reading at school and home
- Writing:
 - Students will process write at least 4 out of 5 days
 - Teachers will develop common expectations of writing
 - We will publish more student writing

PROGRESS MONITORING LITERACY

- Some of these goals have already been attained through the scheduling process.
- Administration will look for/at:
 - Leveled libraries
 - Reading logs and responses
 - Independent book boxes
 - Literacy instruction and time devoted to reading/writing
 - District assessments of reading and writing

GOAL: STUDENTS WILL IMPROVE THEIR NUMERACY SKILLS AS MEASURED BY DISTRICT AND STATE ASSESSMENTS

- Objective: Students will use common visualization and modeling strategies k-4 in order to build number sense.

BACKGROUND NUMERACY

- Our state assessments in mathematics show a pattern of three years with around 9 out of every 10 students meeting the state goals in mathematics.
- Last year we made a leap forward in those testing at the highest level on the CMT, with nearly two-thirds of our children testing at Advanced.
- To prepare the students better for algebra, we believe that we need to explicitly teach students how to visualize math calculations and put them in a context.

ACTION PLAN NUMERACY

- Staff will research modeling strategies and decide on a few that are the most universally applicable and carry the highest leverage.
- Train classroom teacher in the strategies during professional development opportunities.
- Model at common planning times how to use the strategies on upcoming math lessons.

PROGRESS MONITORING NUMERACY

- We have already begun to implement this plan. At our last professional development opportunity at the end of October, math support staff and the principal modeled several visualization techniques and introduced staff to several on-line tools to help with instruction. Teachers were also asked to use these techniques in upcoming math units and given time to plan.
- Other monitoring opportunities:
 - Observation of math lessons.
 - District and school assessment results, including new Symphony Math Benchmark test.
 - Student math journals.

GOAL

DEVELOPING INTERNAL COMMUNITY

- Two objectives:
 - Build communication within BES community
 - Students will engage in more self-directed learning

BACKGROUND

DEVELOPING INTERNAL COMMUNITY

- These objectives are fairly diverse. One deals with the internal structures and vision among the adults within the school, the other seeks to capture the interest of our students in their learning.
- The first objective comes out of a desire to improve communication between staff and administration and also bring internal consistency of purpose.
- The second objective is part of a greater goal to look beyond mastery of the curriculum and try to inspire creativity and problem solving.

ACTION PLAN

DEVELOPING INTERNAL COMMUNITY

- Collaborate with TLS to develop common expectations for teacher communication with incoming students
- Develop a letter from the office answering frequently asked questions about dismissal and arrival, before and afterschool care to be provided to all new families.
- Teachers will provide a copy to the office of all class level communication.
- School will finalize Vision and Values statements with feedback from parent community and post on web site.

PROGRESS MONITORING

DEVELOPING INTERNAL COMMUNITY

- A draft of our Vision and Values is already posted on the web site.
- A welcome letter to be developed by administration.
- Common expectations will also be developed by the end of the year.
- Classroom interest inventories
- Student-created projects

GOAL

DEVELOPING EXTERNAL COMMUNITY

- Objectives:
 - Develop communication within the BES community
 - Help our students develop cross-cultural connections

BACKGROUND

DEVELOPING EXTERNAL COMMUNITY

- The first objective for this goal is mirrored in the internal goal: it is about building consistency and clarity of communication, in this case with our parents.
- The second objective is related to helping our children understand better their place in a global and diverse world. We currently have a sister-school relationship with the Chenyang school, but there may be cross-cultural opportunities elsewhere in Connecticut and the world that need to be fostered.

ACTION PLAN

DEVELOPING EXTERNAL COMMUNITY

- Expand BES website to include more information for parents and update in a timelier fashion.
- School will finalize Vision and Values statements with feedback from parent community and post on web site.
- Continue partnership with Chenyang School
- Explore further partnerships across geographic and/or cultural lines.

PROGRESS MONITORING DEVELOPING EXTERNAL COMMUNITY

- Web site
- Letters to pen pals
- On-line sharing of classroom work
- Finalized Vision and Values statements