



Renfrew County District School Board

Director's Report - November 26, 2007

Improvement Planning

In accordance with Ministry requirements, the Renfrew County District School Board has submitted improvement plans that are aligned with expectations for continued improvement in student achievement. The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat and the Student Success Learning to 18 Branch set parameters for board plans. Board plans specify the system and school-based professional activities on which emphasis will be placed and include SMART goals with accountability measures.

For elementary schools it is expected that each school will ensure implementation of the following research-based effective practices:

1. An in-school support team to develop and implement school improvement plans (SIP);
2. Ambitious targets for student achievement communicated to the school community;
3. Planning so that the Ontario Curriculum expectations form the basis of instruction;
4. Uninterrupted time for literacy (minimum 100 minutes) and numeracy (minimum 60 minutes);
5. Common assessment tools to assess student work and teacher moderation of student work to ensure consistency in evaluation practices;
6. A comprehensive literacy program using the four reading strategies - read-aloud, shared, guided and independent - and six plus one writing traits;
7. Differentiated instruction (DI);
8. Assessment data drives instruction - instruction is more personalized and precise;
9. Tracking of student achievement and early intervention for struggling students;
10. Higher order questioning and open-ended mathematical problems.

For secondary schools the plan is focussed on maintaining and improving upon our results on eleven indicators of student success:

1. Grade nine credit accumulation - target of eight credits;
2. Grade ten credit accumulation - target of sixteen credits;
3. Completion of Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test;
4. Tracking and transition planning for grade 7/8 students at risk in English;
5. Tracking and transition planning for grade 7/8 students at risk in Mathematics;
6. Pass rate on compulsory courses in grade 9;
7. Pass rate on compulsory courses in grade 10;
8. Closing the gap between academic and applied pass rates in grade 9;
9. Closing the gap between academic and applied pass rates in grade 10;
10. Rate of completion of courses through credit recovery;
11. Reduction in annual school leaver rate (students leaving before graduation).

The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat has developed a self-assessment tool that will assist with monitoring progress in implementing these plans. The "School Effectiveness Framework" gives guidance to our elementary and secondary "student success" teams as they examine the work being done to improve student learning and achievement, instructional leadership, assessment and evaluation, and curriculum and instructional strategies.

Safe Schools

The Ministry of Education has made changes to the legislation regarding safe schools, which become effective in February 2008 and has issued memoranda to give direction on its expectations for codes of conduct, programs for expelled students, programs for students on long-term suspensions, anti-bullying programs, and progressive discipline. The Ministry has provided \$213,563 to assist our Board in implementing the new requirements. Training for administrators and other staff has already begun. Supervisory officers, principals, vice-principals and representatives of employee groups attended a full-day information and planning session.

Staff has initiated a review of all administrative procedures dealing with safe schools to ensure that our procedures are in alignment with Bill 212 (Progressive Discipline and School Safety) and with other safety regulations and requirements. Representatives from all employee groups and administration met in September to review approximately a dozen of our current procedures and to give input on what clarification or changes are needed. Revised drafts will be circulated for information and further input in early January so that the final versions will be ready for February 2008.

Reporting to the Ministry

This fall, staff has prepared and submitted the following:

- CODE Year Three Funding Proposal and Report from 2006-2007;
- Report on Teacher Professional Development - Best Practices Project;
- Leading Student Achievement - Plan for Principal Purpose Project;
- Report and Plan for Special Education Funds from Ontario Psychological Association;
- Report on Ontario Focussed Intervention Program 2006-2007;
- New Teacher Induction Report on 2006-2007 and Plan for 2007-2008;
- Report on Use of 2006-2007 Parent Involvement Funds;
- 2007- 2008 Accessibility Plan;
- Primary Class Size Compliance Report;
- Report on FSL Funds;
- Report on Adult Language Programs;
- Report on Healthy Schools and Daily Physical Activity;
- Board Improvement Plan - K to 12;
- Student Success Plan - 7 to 12.