

Districtwide Improvement Committee Minutes

December 11, 2007

Donna Boehm, Michele Heathman and Doug McLaughlin shared information on the identification process for at-risk students with the committee. They noted that the state has outlined the circumstances in which a student can be identified as at-risk. This information along with the specific criteria used by the district to meet those circumstances is included in the Compensatory Education Plan.

Karen Bessette described the prekindergarten program for the committee explaining that students were identified for the program if they spoke a language other than English, were from low-income families or for the first time were from families in the military. She works with 29 students using a strong oral language program.

Audra Burke gives kindergarteners a readiness test in August and forms flexible groups of at-risk students based on these results. In January the students are re-evaluated using the Texas Primary Reading Inventory and additional at-risk students may be identified. She works with students on listening, comprehension word/print concepts, phonemic awareness, etc. within the regular classroom.

The reading program for grades 3-5 was shared with the committee by Cheryl Deegan. The focus of instruction is enabling children to move from learning to read to learning to read utilizing higher order thinking skills. Deegan serves 61 students helping them with phonetic awareness, vocabulary development and comprehension. Fifty-seven out of sixty-one students passed the TAKS reading in the spring of 2006.

Donna Zinn described the reading program for grades 6-8. Donna worked with 25 at-risk students across the three grade levels on vocabulary development, comprehension and fluency skills critical to reading. Twenty out of twenty-five students passed TAKS reading in the spring of 2006.

The Content Mastery program at the elementary provides support for at-risk students in a variety of ways. These include providing additional time to take tests, re-teaching and/or reviewing concepts presented in the regular classroom, administering tests, etc. Frank Riggsby works with eight students, identified as at-risk, in this program.

The Content Mastery program for grades 6-12 provides individualized academic support for at-risk students. Joanie Alderman explained that Content Mastery is available throughout the school day to offer one-on-one instruction, review or re-teach support to these students, etc. Currently there are 15 middle school and 15 high school at-risk students served through this program.

Lisa Mines described the math TAKS Remediation program for eleventh and twelfth grade students. She works with students who did not pass the math portion of the tenth grade TAKS test or are new to Texas and need to strengthen their math skills to be successful when they take the math TAKS test. She works one-on-one with students on their particular needs. Mines currently is working with one twelfth grade student.

The English TAKS Remediation program supports eleventh and twelfth grade students who were unsuccessful on the tenth grade English TAKS test or who are new to Texas and need to strengthen their English skills prior to taking the English TAKS test. Donna Colglazier works with one student who needs such support.

Bruce Cannon described the districts' Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) for the committee. Students enter the DAEP based on violating specific components of the Randolph Student Code of Conduct. The term of the DAEP placement is specified in the DAEP hearing which is conducted by the principal with the parent and student in attendance. The program meets Monday through Friday from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM on the Randolph secondary campus. No students have been placed in the DAEP this year.

Both the elementary and secondary staff would like next year's calendar to resemble this year's calendar as much as possible. They would appreciate no Saturday workdays except for the end of school. They would like to have a week at spring break and a week at Thanksgiving as well as a two week winter break.

Next scheduled meeting: Tuesday, January 24, 2008
Randolph High School
Room 21
4:00 PM