



DISTRICT News

WEST SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT

January 2014

Teacher Effectiveness Rating Tool and School Performance Profile

In 2010, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) began work to develop an appropriate and encompassing tool for evaluating school performance and teacher effectiveness. On June 22, 2013, PDE published Title 22 from the Pennsylvania School Code Chapter 19 in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. Title 22 outlines the components of the new teacher evaluation rating tool being implemented in Pennsylvania public schools this school year. The full implementation of the tool will be phased in over the course of a couple years.

In Pennsylvania, Teacher Observation and Practice is one component on the state's classroom teacher rating form. PDE adopted the Charlotte Danielson Framework for Teaching with districts having the authority to apply to the state to select an alternative model to the Danielson Framework. West Shore has opted to utilize the Danielson Framework for Effective Teaching 2013 as the tool used for teacher observation. This framework includes four components including Planning and Preparation, Classroom Environment, Instruction, and Professional Responsibilities. Additional information regarding the Danielson Framework is available at www.danielsongroup.org.

Building level data will also be included in the 2013-2014 Teacher Effectiveness Rating Tool.

PDE reports district and building level data through the Pennsylvania School Performance Profile. The Performance Profile is based on multiple factors including academic performance data as determined through state assessments, student attendance data, graduation rate data, and other key indicators of students' performance as determined by PDE. Additional information regarding individual school profiles are available to the public at paschoolperformance.org.

Teacher specific data, which will be phased into the Teacher Effectiveness Rating, will be derived from the Pennsylvania Value Added Assessment System (PVAAS). PVAAS is a statistical analysis of Pennsylvania state assessment data, providing districts and schools with growth data to add to achievement data. PVAAS reports allow educators to determine appropriate and effective interventions that benefit every student, regardless of his or her achievement level.

West Shore is committed to building a solid foundation for learning. PVAAS is a useful tool for our teachers and administrators to effectively impact instruction for all learners. Additional information regarding PVAAS is available at www.education.state.pa.us [select Programs on the left and then PA Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS) from the drop down menu].

Special Education Public Notice

The West Shore School District is required to identify students who may have disabilities. The required Public Notice for Child Find for the District is currently available online. Visit www.wssd.k12.pa.us and select the Departments tab to view the Special Education page and public notice. If you have difficulty accessing this or have questions, please contact Mr. Thomas Burnheimer, Director of Pupil Services, at 938-9577 or email tburnheimer@wssd.k12.pa.us.



Changes in Federal Accountability for Pennsylvania Schools

Beginning in 2003, Pennsylvania's public schools were evaluated based on whether student performance on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) tests demonstrated Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Results of the PSSA tests have been shared with the community every year since then. The requirements for this mandated testing changed gradually, as testing was added at new grade levels, science was added to the PSSAs, and the Keystone exams replaced the eleventh grade PSSAs.

With the approval of a statewide waiver to some of the requirements of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB), Pennsylvania's Federal Accountability requirements changed significantly this year. Unlike previous years, only schools participating in the Federal Title I program are part of Pennsylvania's Federal Accountability System. Title I schools are identified by the number of students eligible for free or reduced priced meals in each school and the District's decision to use Federal Title I dollars, mostly in reading, for elementary students needing extra support. All District elementary schools, except Fairview Elementary School, receive Title I support services. At Fairview, supplementary reading support is provided to students through District funding.

Due to the new federal accountability reporting requirements, Pennsylvania did not report AYP results. Rather, an academic performance score, which is included in the Pennsylvania School Performance Profiles, was reported for each school. Under the new system, Title I schools are identified as either High Achievement or High Progress when the school's students achieve or grow academically in the top 5% of schools statewide. Schools with poor student achievement or poor academic growth are identified as Priority or Focus Schools. Those Title I schools which are not identified as any of the four designated categories are considered Undesignated. Based on the 2013 PSSA testing results, all District Title I schools are currently considered Undesignated.

While none of the District's Title I schools were identified as Priority or Focus Schools, the schools continue to enhance the instructional program to increase student academic performance and growth.

Links to the Pennsylvania School Performance Profiles can be found by selecting the "Performance Profiles" quick link on the District website or the "School Performance Profile" quick link on each school's website.

West Shore Foundation Receives United Way Contributions

Each year the West Shore School District, with the support of the West Shore Education Association (WSEA) and District Council 89 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), participates in the United Way's fundraising campaign.

When completing a pledge sheet, employees have the option to designate their donation be received by a particular charity. This year, the West Shore Foundation was delighted to receive pledges totaling \$2,184 from area donors.

At its November meeting, the West Shore Foundation agreed to grant these funds to the District to purchase new books for each school's library collection. The District hopes to have these new materials available for the 2014-2015 school year.

Two Types of Title I

Title I funds help schools provide educational resources to those students most needing supplementary support in reading and math. Specifically, Title I funds can be used to purchase supplementary materials and supplies for parent workshops and to support before and after school programs including Jumpstart and BOOST. The District has two types of Title I programs - Targeted Assistance and Schoolwide.

All schools operating Title I programs are eligible to run Targeted Assistance programs. In Targeted Assistance programs, only those students who qualify for support based on assessment results are eligible to participate in Title I services.

Schoolwide Title I allows all students in first through fifth grade to participate in after-school programs to enhance reading and math. Schools are eligible to develop and request permission from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) if their student participation in the Free and Reduced Lunch program is close to 40% or higher. Once the eligibility threshold is satisfied, a school's leadership team may develop and submit a school improvement plan to PDE requesting to operate a Schoolwide Title I program. Currently, Hillside, Lower Allen, Newberry, Rossmoyne, and Washington Heights Elementary Schools have received approval to operate Schoolwide Title I programs.

Title I Involves Parents

Each year, schools hold a Title I Parent Involvement Policy meeting to foster a strong home/school relationship. At this meeting the Title I Involvement policy is reviewed and updated as needed, parent workshops are developed, and feedback on the Title I program is requested.

Title I parents throughout the District are also encouraged to participate in the annual Title I District Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting. This year's Title I DAC meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2014, at 6 p.m. at Highland Elementary School.



District Auction and Sale of Former Lemoyne Middle School

With the closing of the former Lemoyne Middle School and the realignment of attendance boundaries, the District reassigned many of the materials from Lemoyne to other schools in the District. The District is now looking to sell materials that were not needed by the other school buildings.

These materials, and additional surplus items, will be publicly auctioned on February 22, 2014, by Bricker's Auction. The auction will take place at Lemoyne Middle School located at 701 Market Street in Lemoyne starting at 9:30 a.m. and continue until the auctioneer is finished for the day. A list of items to be included in the auction can be found on the District website.

In addition to selling excess inventory, the District is also preparing to sell the school and plans to release a formal Request for Sealed Bids to purchase the property directly from the District. The District hopes to award a successful bid at the March Board meeting.

Those parties interested in inspecting the former Lemoyne Middle School may schedule an appointment by contacting Mr. Russ Burnell, Director of Buildings and Grounds, at (717)938-9577 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Limited opportunities to inspect the school may also be available on February 22, 2014, during the auction.



Mission Statement

The West Shore School District is committed to providing this generation with a quality education serving as a foundation for responsible and successful citizenship.

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West Shore School District

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The West Shore School District will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, marital status, or disability in accordance with state and federal laws governing educational and vocational programs and in its recruitment and employment practices. Inquiries concerning the application of Title VII, Title IX, Section 504, the ADA, and the implementing regulations may be referred to the Director of Human Resources, 507 Fishing Creek Road, P.O. Box 803, New Cumberland, PA 17070-0803, telephone (717) 938-9577. Revised 12-2013

Kindergarten Registration for Class of 2027

The District will be conducting kindergarten registration March 24-27, 2014, at the Administration Center for Education. Students will be registered for kindergarten by appointment only. Please contact the building principal of the elementary school in your attendance area to schedule an appointment and obtain a registration packet. To be admitted to kindergarten, children must be at least five (5) years of age before October 1, 2014, possess an official birth certificate and proper immunization records. Students registering for first grade must be six (6) years of age prior to October 1, 2014. A student attending a private kindergarten must meet West Shore School District's age requirement for entering first grade unless the student was awarded early admission to kindergarten by the District for the 2013-2014 school year.

Parents of a child turning five between October 1 and November 30, 2014, and petitioning the District for early admission must contact the school's guidance counselor prior to May 1, 2014, for necessary testing information.

Seeking Feedback

The District continues to share information with the community through the District website, *District News*, and twitter in addition to information shared by individual schools.

The District is not able to promise publication of all topics, but we would like to hear from you. What stories would you like to see in future publications and/or web postings?

Please share your ideas with
Dr. Ryan Argot at
rargot@wssd.k12.pa.us.