Children Come First: A Strategic Plan for High School Improvement

Dr. Michael Kuchar, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Frank Auriemma, Director of EE4NJ

Presentation can be found on www.bergenfield.org







857 empty desks = number of dropouts from American schools every hour of every day















dropouts already today 1 student every 26 seconds









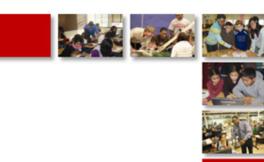




We all have to take responsibility to create positive change!







Dr.Allan Odden University of Wisconsin

 "The problem isn't funding, it is having the will and persistence to fix the system."









We Know How to Turn Schools Around By Allan R. Odden

 Allan R. Odden, a professor of educational leadership and policy analysis at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, is a co-director of Strategic Management of Human Capital, a project of the Consortium for Policy Research in Education (CPRE).













- Odden, A.R.(2009). We Know How to turn Around Schools. Education Week, 29(14), 22-23. Issue 14, Pages 22-23
- Odden, Allan (2011). Strategic Management of Human Capital in Education. New York, NY: Routledge. <u>ISBN [[Special:BookSources/978-0-414-88666-6]978-0-414-88666-6]].</u>
- Odden, Allan (2009). Ten Strategies for Doubling Student Performance. Thousand Oaks, Calif: Corwin Press. ISBN 978-1-4129-7148-5.
- Odden, Allan; Archibald, Sarah (2009). Doubling Student Performance and finding the resources to do it. Thousand Oaks, Calif: Corwin Press. <u>ISBN 978-1-4129-6963-5.</u>
- Odden, Allan; Wallace, Marc (2007). How to Create World Class Teacher Compensation. St. Paul, MN: Freeload Press. <u>ISBN 1-930789-03-3</u>.
- Odden, Allan; Lawrence O Picus (2007). School Finance: A Policy Perspective, 4th Edition. McGraw-Hill Humanities/Social Sciences/Languages. <u>ISBN 0-07-352592-8</u>.
- Odden, Allan; Kelley, Carolyn (2002). Paying teachers for what they know and do: new and smarter compensation strategies to improve schools, 2nd Edition. Thousand Oaks, Calif: Corwin Press.

 ISBN 0-7619-7888-7.
- Odden, Allan; Archibald, Sarah (2001). Reallocating resources: how to boost student achiev











 The first step is to create a sense of urgency. Such heightened awareness of problems and their impact emerges when teachers and administrators analyze state studentperformance data together and become more informed about the academic effectiveness of their school and district.











Odden Step 2

 The next step is setting ambitious—some might call them eye-popping—goals: to double student performance on state tests, to double the percentage of students scoring at advanced levels, to make sure that no student performs below the basic level at the end of 3rd grade, and that all students leave that grade reading on level. Whatever they are, these goals should go far beyond "adequate yearly progress."











Odden Step 3

 The next step for turnaround schools is to throw out the old curriculum and adopt new textbooks, create new curriculum programs, and start to build, over time, a common understanding of effective instruction. Districts that move the student-achievement dial by large amounts have a systemic view of curriculum and focus intensely on instructional practices shown to work—and they require all of their teachers to use them.





 The fourth strategy is to move beyond a concentration on state tests and use a battery of assessments, including formative and diagnostic assessments, common end-of-curriculum-unit assessments, and benchmark assessments. Formative and diagnostic assessments hone instructional strategies before each curriculum unit begins. End-of-unit assessments not only measure what students have learned, but also compare the effects teachers have had across classrooms.





 Step five is creating and implementing an intensive and ongoing professional-development program. The best districts and schools form collaborative teacher teams—professional learning communities—that meet often, make use of student data, and work with school-based coaches to improve curriculum and instruction. These schools and districts also include intensive summer institutes in their professionaldevelopment plans, to allow teachers opportunities to gain new knowledge.



Step One- Using Data to paint a picture of your reality



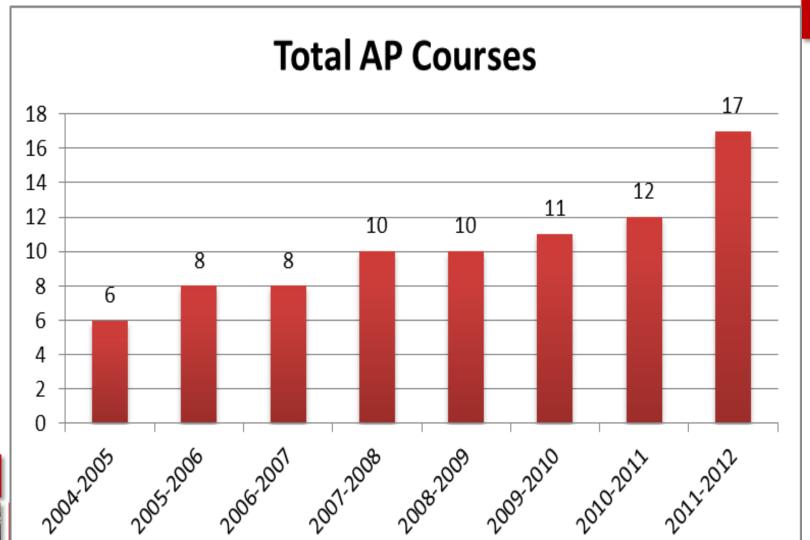
"Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself."



Leo Tolstoy



Open Enrollment AP Courses





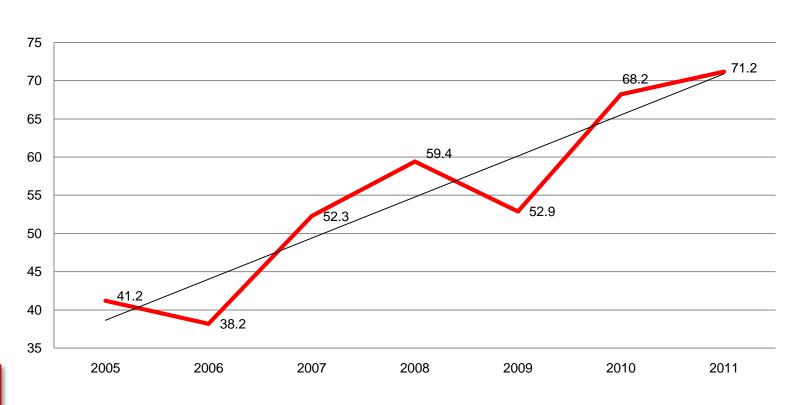














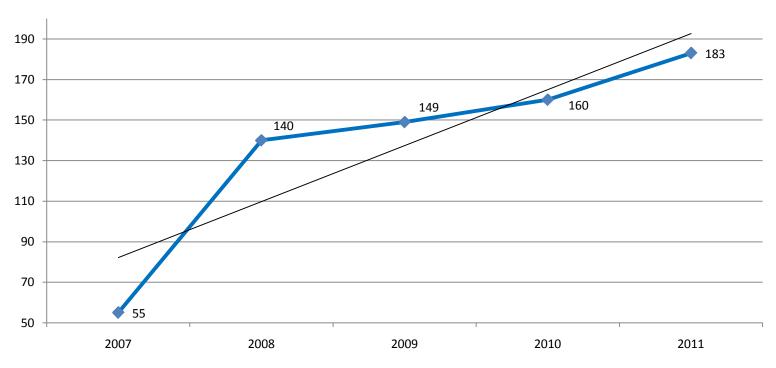
















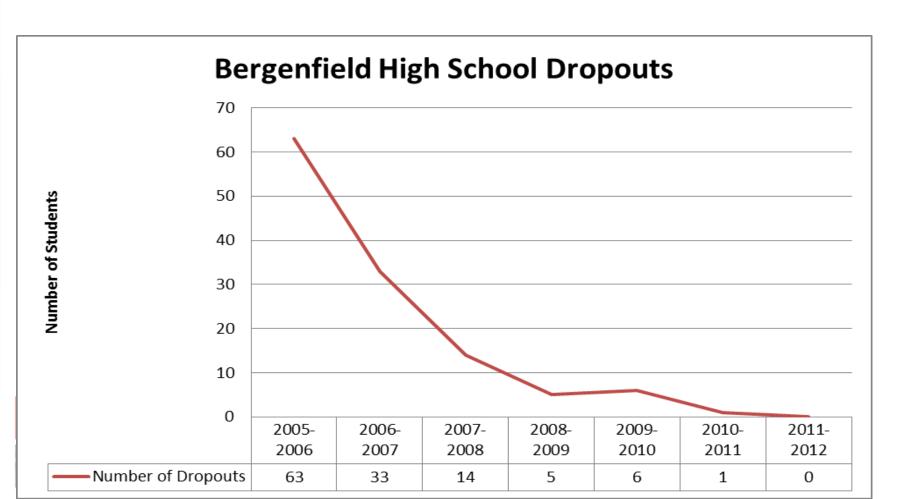












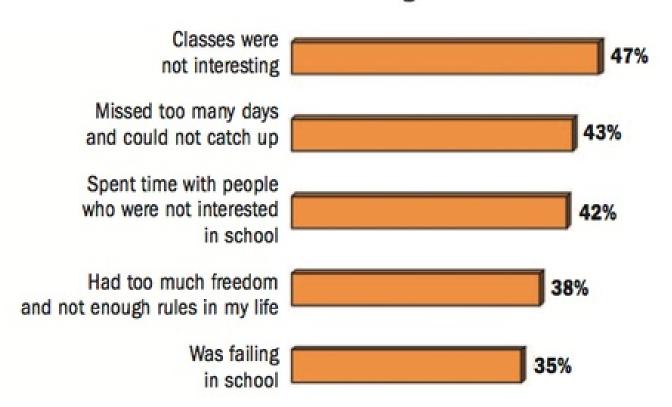








Top Five Reasons Dropouts Identify as Major **Factors For Leaving School**



Source: 2006 Civic Enterprises, The Silent Epidemic









Typically, school data are analyzed to...

- Provide students with feedback on their performance
- Measure program success and effectiveness
- Make sure students do not "fall through the cracks"
- Meet state and federal requirements
- Promote accountability





How does our school use data?











How does our school use data?

ınt	Questions About Where We Are	Data We Have on Hand	Data We Need to Collect
Student Achievement	Is the same cohort of students improving in math achievement from year to year?	Grades 3-8 state test; Benchmark tests	Test scores from year to year on same cohort











How does our school use data?

	Questions About Where We Are	Data We Have on Hand	Data We Need to Collect
Parent Involvement	At what grade level does parent involvement start to decrease? Why do some parents stay involved?	Rosters of parent attendance at parent/teacher conferences in grades K-8	Year-to-year comparison of rosters; Parent perceptions of conferences at critical junctures













But remember...

 Data collection just to be collecting data will serve no real purpose and will waste valuable time and energy.

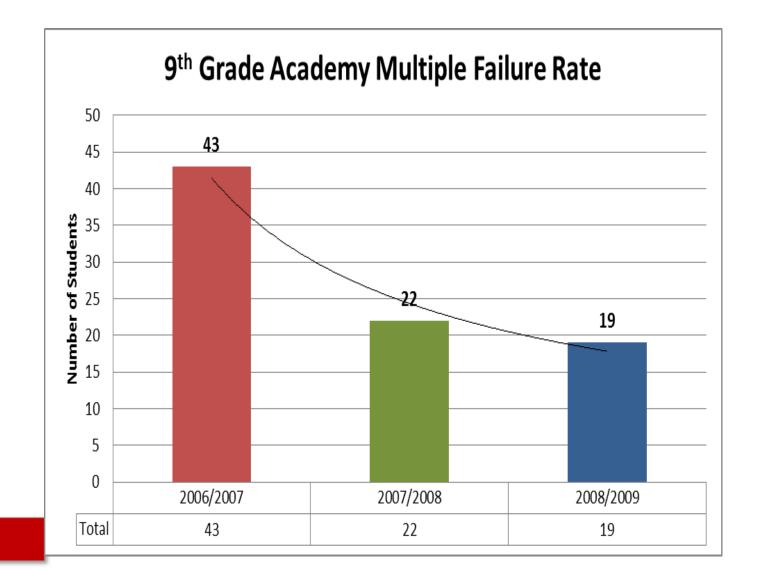
 Data collection needs to be thoughtful and intentional and connected to school goals and objectives.

 Data must be analyzed to have meaning and be used.











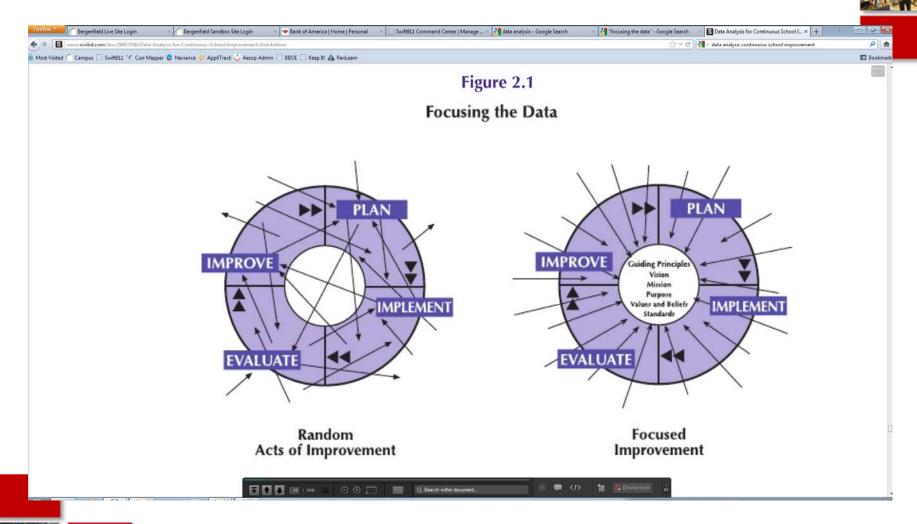












Decrease dropouts from 63 to Zerd

9th Grade Academy- Middle School Teaming Reading Intervention- Accelerated Reader Alternative High School which was truly alternative and not a "dumping ground." Credit Recovery Program both in seat and Computer based (Accellus Porgram) Mentorship of Adult with students-partnered with Big Brother Big Sister of Northern NJ









Odden Step 2

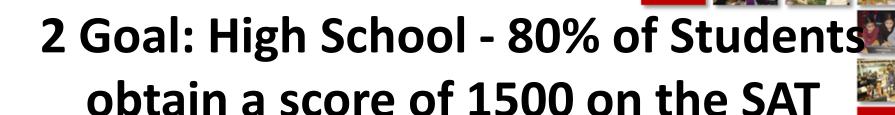
 The next step is setting ambitious—some might call them eye-popping—goals: to double student performance on state tests, to double the percentage of students scoring at advanced levels, to make sure that no student performs below the basic level at the end of 3rd grade, and that all students leave that grade reading on level. Whatever they are, these goals should go far beyond "adequate yearly progress."





1 Goal: High School - 80% of Students take 1 AP exam with a minimum score of 3

- 1 Add more AP Courses that diversify interest such as Psychology, Music, Art etc.
- 2 Technology professional development will provide teachers w/tools to assist in raising student achievement
- 3 Make professional development effective, systematic, measureable, meaningful
- 4 Increase acceptance to 4 yr. college: financial aid night (bilingual) parent/student Naviance conference, Naviance reports



23 Increase communication among families, counselors and teachers to increase achievement

24 Technology professional development will provide teachers w/tools to assist in raising student achievement 25 Make professional development effective, systematic, measureable, meaningful

26 Provide common planning time to analyze test data and student achievement. Data analysis: NWEA, Star Literacy and Math, state testing early on and PSAT, SAT

27 Increase acceptance to 4 yr. college: financial aid night (bilingual) parent/student Naviance conference, Naviance reports













3 Goal: High School - 80% of seniors take Calculus

36 Increase communication among families, counselors and teachers to increase achievement 37 Technology professional development will provide teachers w/tools to assist in raising student achievement

38 Make professional development effective, systematic, measureable, meaningful

39 Math Rigor and support start Kindergarten and continues through 12th grade

40 Use data to drive instruction 41 Data analysis: NWEA, Star Literacy and Math, state testing

Quarterly benchmarks in all subjects







4 Goal: High School - 80% of sophomores complete Algebra 2 with a B or better



50 Increase parent/student use of website, infinite campus, Homework Now 51 Increase communication among families, counselors and teachers to increase achievement Technology professional development will provide teachers w/tools to assist in raising student achievement 53 Make professional development effective, systematic, measureable, meaningful 54 Provide common planning time to analyze test data and student achievement







5 Goal: High School - 80% of seniors have 3 years of World Language

70 Offer more Language options to reflect the 21st Century Work Skills such as Chinese. Variety of language offerings elementary and middle school. 72 Increase communication among families, counselors and teachers to reduce failure 73 Technology professional development will provide teachers w/tools to assist in raising student achievement





6 Goal: High School - 80% of students pass the Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Biology State Tests

86 Schedule specials to lessen interference in instructional time 87 Bringing more kids to the mainstream 88 Increase communication among families, counselors and teachers to increase achievement 89 Technology professional development will provide teachers w/tools to assist in raising student achievement







7 Goal: 8th Grade - 80% take Algebra



108 Bringing more kids to the mainstream Increase communication among families, counselors and teachers to reduce 110 New teacher monthly meetings @ **RWB to instill Best Practices** 111 Technology professional development will provide teachers w/tools to assist in raising student achievement 112 Make professional development effective, systematic, measureable, meaningful





127 Schedule specials to lessen interference in instructional time 128 Bringing more kids to the mainstream 129 Increase communication among families, counselors and teachers to enhance success 130 New teacher monthly meetings @ RWB on best practices 131 RWB regular walk-throughs to focus on and improve instruction





152 Schedule specials to lessen interference in instructional time 153 Bringing more kids to the mainstream 154 Increase communication among families, counselors and teachers to reduce failure 155 New teacher monthly meetings @ RWB 156 RWB regular walk-throughs to focus on and improve instruction

Goal: 5th Grade - 35% are in the Advanced Proficient range on NJASK 5

5th grade teaming Increase instructional time in elementary schools Standardize instructional time for major content areas in elementary school Bringing more kids to the mainstream Increase communication among families, counselors and teachers to reduce failure Technology professional development will provide teachers w/tools to assist in raising student achievement











205 5th grade teaming 206 Increase instructional time in elementary schools on math 207 Standardize instructional time for major content areas in elementary school 208 Bringing more kids to the mainstream and increased rigor 209 Increase communication among families, counselors and teachers to reduce failure 210 Technology professional development will provide teachers w/tools to assist in raising student achievement 211 Make professional development effective, systematic, measureable, meaningful Provide common planning time to analyze test data and student achievement



12 Goal: 3rd Grade - 35% are in the Advanced Proficient range on NJASK LA

228 Increase instructional time in elementary schools 229 Standardize instructional time for major content areas in elementary 230 Bringing more kids to the school mainstream 231 Increase communication among families, counselors and teachers to reduce failure 232 Technology professional development will provide teachers w/tools to assist in raising student achievement











254 Increase instructional time in elementary 255 Standardize instructional time for major content areas in elementary school Bringing more kids to the mainstream Increase communication among families, counselors and teachers to reduce 258 Technology professional development will provide teachers w/tools to assist in raising student achievement **259 Make** professional development effective, systematic, measureable, meaningful



278 Provide Multi-Sensory Program as well as all available resources for low achieving students to provide learning foundation of high academics 279 Technology professional development will provide teachers w/tools to assist in raising student achievement 280 Star Literacy programs and other technologies to provide advancement of learning 281 Expand leveled reader programs and inventory of books 282 Kindergarten curriculum to increase skills as well as a full day program to increase time on task











Odden Step 3

 The next step for turnaround schools is to throw out the old curriculum and adopt new textbooks, create new curriculum programs, and start to build, over time, a common understanding of effective instruction. Districts that move the studentachievement dial by large amounts have a systemic view of curriculum and focus intensely on instructional practices shown to work—and they require all of their teachers to use them.









Step 3 Effective Programs

- Alternative School
- 9th grade academy
- Credit recovery
- Teacher Effectiveness
- Administrator Efficacy Evaluations



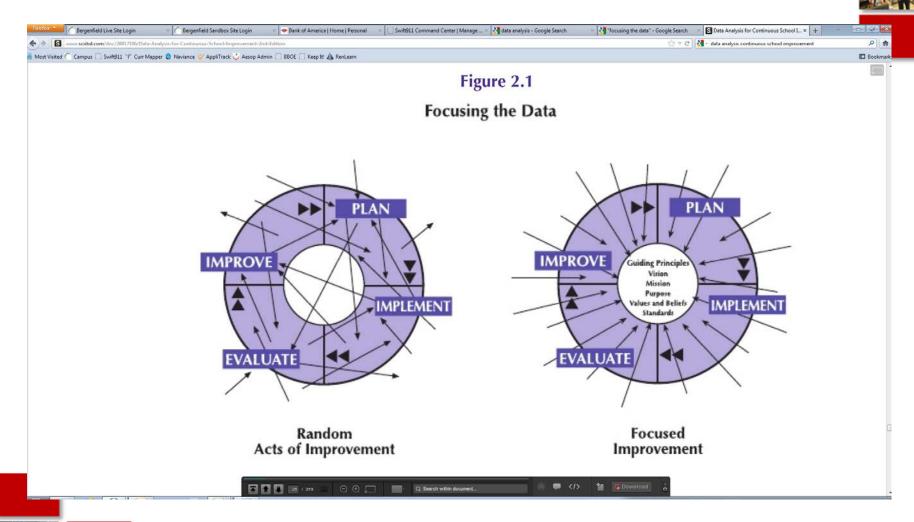














Excellent Educators for New Jersey (EE4NJ)

Bergenfield Public School District











Widget Effect

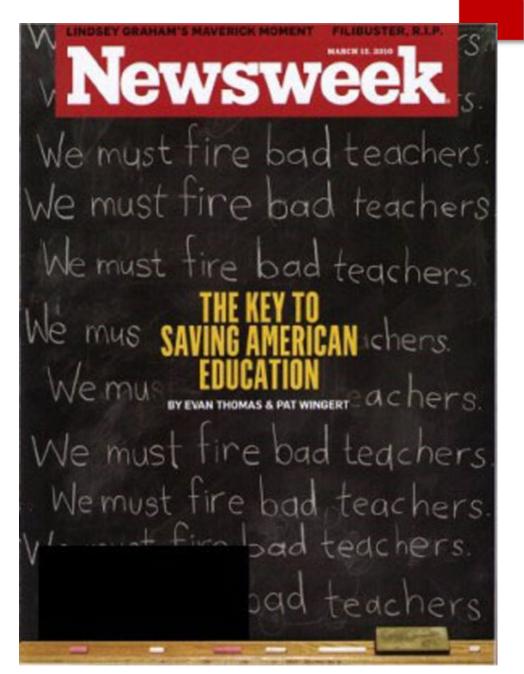
9/1/12 Chicago Public Schools on strike

Major issue: Teacher evaluation

2010- 65% of Chicago Public School students graduated HS.

2010- Less than 0.3% of all teachers received an unsatisfactory rating





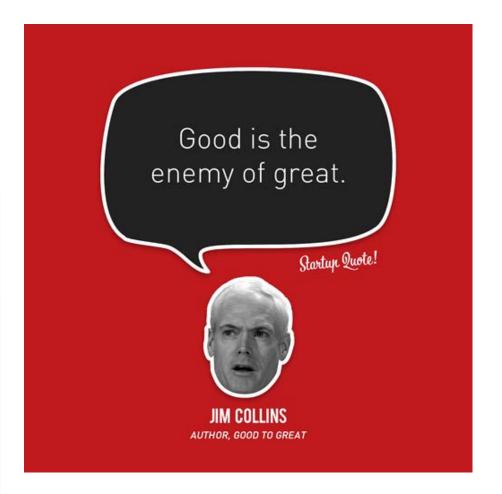














Our focus must not be on the one or two underperforming teachers, rather the wide range of mediocrity- not due to laziness or lack of effort on part of teacher, but rather a lack of support, direction, and technical skill.









Linking Student Achievement to Teacher Practice

 More than two decades of research findings are unequivocal about the critical connection between teacher effectiveness and student learning. The research shows that student achievement is strongly related to teacher quality; highly skilled teachers produce improved student results.





About the EE4NJ Pilot Program

NJ is the 27th State to take on the teacher evaluation reform initiative.





Begun in 2007, the University of Washington has used a 5D Assessment to conduct research on 2,000+ instructional leaders;

The study is aimed at locating areas of strength and weakness amongst school leaders tasked with evaluating staff members.



University of Washington Study, continued

A rubric with five dimensions and thirteen sub-dimensions was created;

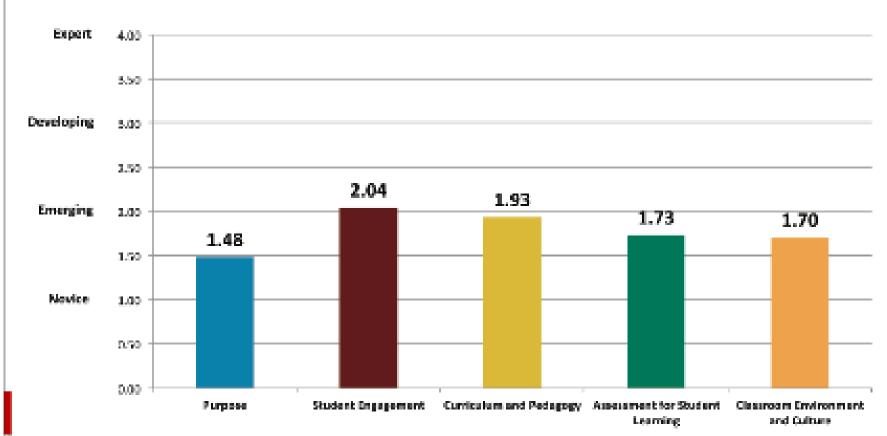
Initial challenge was defining what it means to be a "high quality" teacher;

Levels of expertise in instructional leadership include novice, emerging, developing, and expert.



Cumulative Dimension Averages

2,207 participants; 42 school districts









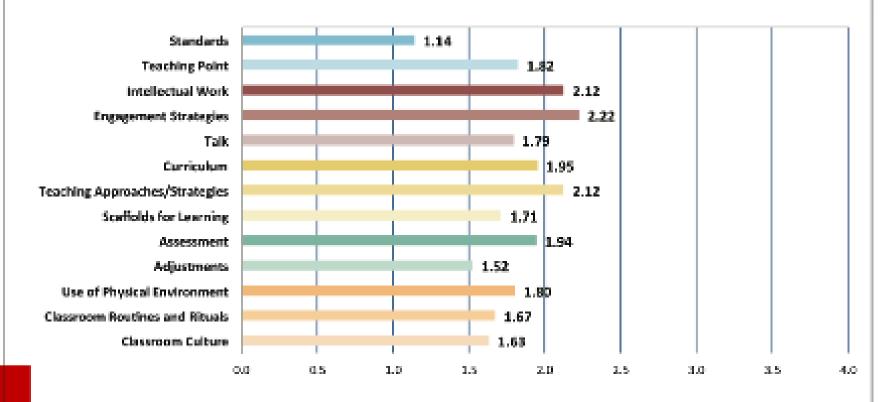






Averages

2,207 participants; 42 school districts



1-1.5 = Novice 1.51-2.5 = Emerging 2.51-3.5 = Developing 3.51-4.0 = Expert













Teacher Evaluation 100%

Student Achievement (outputs of learning) 50% of total evaluation

Measures of Student Achievement include:

- Student achievement on stateapproved assessments or performancebased evaluations, representing 35%-45% of the evaluation; and
- •State-approved **school-wide** performance measure, representing **5%** of the evaluation.
- •Districts have the option of also including additional performance measures.

Teacher Practice (inputs associated with learning) 50% of total evaluation

Measures of Teacher Practice include:

- •Use of a state-approved **teacher practice evaluation framework** and measurement tools to collect and review evidence of teacher practice, including classroom observation as a major component, representing **25%-47.5%**; and
- •At least one **additional tool** to assess teacher practice, representing **2.5%-25%.**



- Use of a state-approved teacher practice evaluation framework and measurement tools to collect and review evidence of teacher practice, including:
 - Classroom observation as a major component.
 - At least one additional tool to assess teacher practice.
- Bergenfield chose the Charlotte Danielson
 Framework for Teaching, while the District
 Evaluation Pilot Advisory Committee is working with NJDOE to select the additional tool.







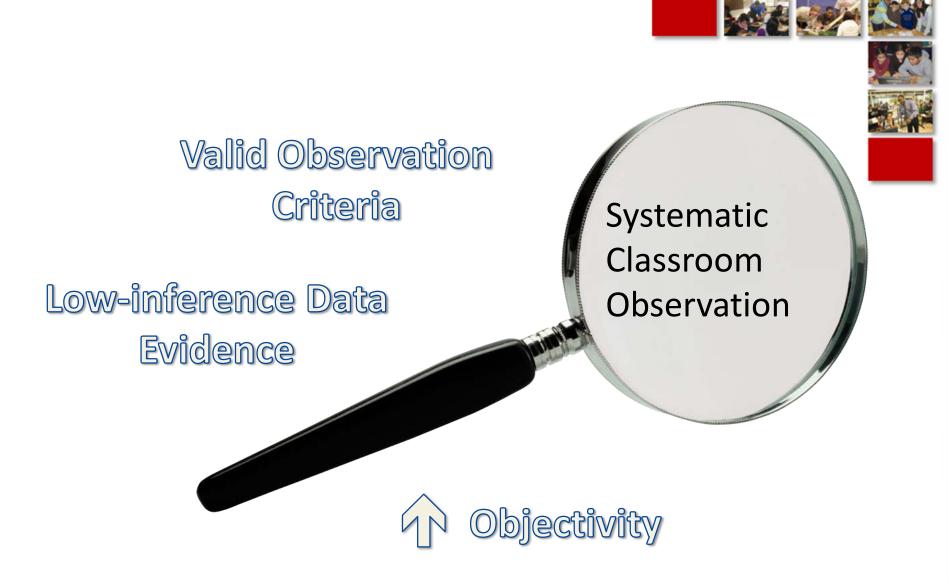






- Measures of student achievement include:
 - Student growth on state-approved assessments or performance-based evaluations.
 - State-approved school-wide performance measure.
 - Districts have the option of also including additional performance measures.
- Bergenfield may use aggregated growth of subgroups, utilizing
 SAT, ACT, AP, N.W.E.A, Renaissance
 Learning, and/or writing portfolios.









Two key points to the model:

Ensuring teacher quality, &

Promoting professional development







 The fourth strategy is to move beyond a concentration on state tests and use a battery of assessments, including formative and diagnostic assessments, common end-of-curriculum-unit assessments, and benchmark assessments. Formative and diagnostic assessments hone instructional strategies before each curriculum unit begins. End-of-unit assessments not only measure what students have learned, but also compare the effects teachers have had across classrooms.











Evaluation Data Collection and Management



- Data has never used more heavily in the history of Bergenfield Public School District.
 - Data is linked to teachers, allowing principals and department chairs to review the scores of different classrooms
 - BPSD has continuously measured progress using real data to shape classroom learning.
- By using this performance management system, the district will streamline the evaluation process while at the same time enhancing its rigor.
- The District is focused on Student Growth vs. Proficiency



District Mantra

"If it is not measured, it will not be accomplished."

Dr. Michael Osnato







Renaissance Learning



- State-aligned computerized adaptive assessments that provide accurate, useful information about student achievement and growth
- Tailored reports give educators information to guide decisions
- Ren Learn classroom resources help teachers directly apply assessment results to instructional planning







Renaissance Learning

- For 2011-2012, the district decided to gather even more data, as the district will be expanding use of Renaissance Learning products to assess reading, math and early literacy. Grades 1-11 will all have formative assessments.
- These brief assessments have been proven to be extremely accurate and will provide even more flexibility within the classroom.

















FIVE DOMAINS

(Standards Based)

- Word Knowledge & Skills
- Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning
- 3. Analyzing Literary Text
- 4. Understanding Author's Craft
- **Analyzing Argument** and Evaluating Text

36 Skills / 400 Grade-Level Skills

THREE DOMAINS (Standards Based)

- Word Knowledge and Skills
- 2. Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning
- Numbers and **Operations**

10 Sub-domains 41 Skill Sets / 145 SKILLS

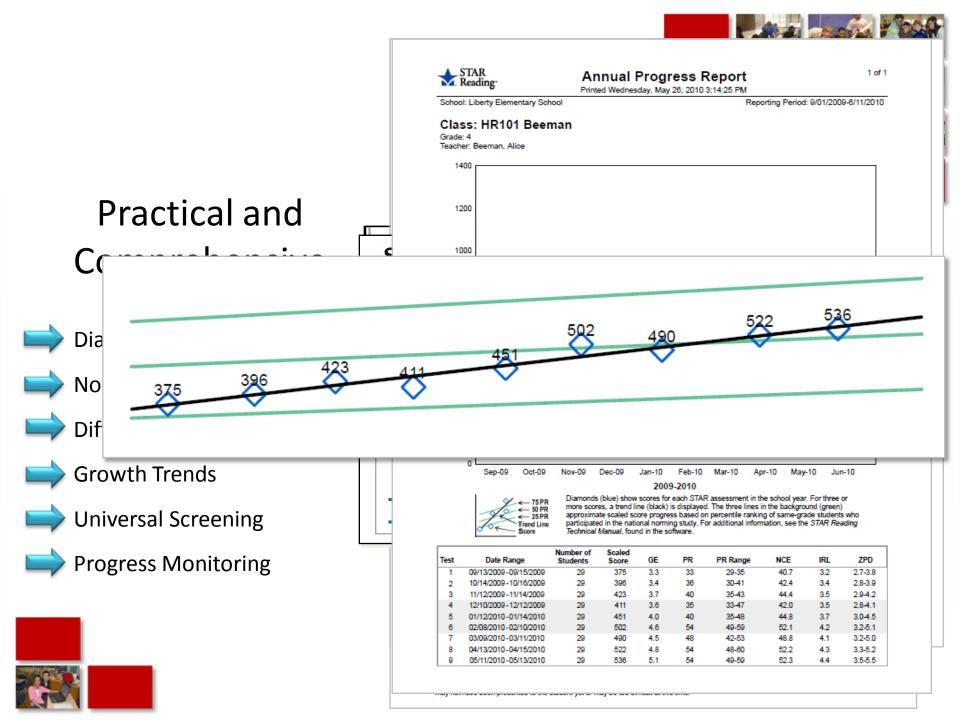
FOUR DOMAINS (Standards Based)

- Numbers and **Operations**
- 2. Algebra
- Geometry and Measurement
- Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability

54 Skill Sets / 550 SKILLS









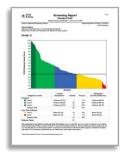








STAR Enterprise



Universal Screening Based on State Test

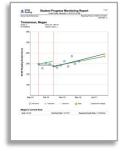


Predict State Test Proficiency



State Standards

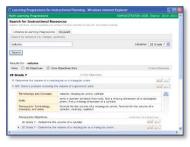
Common Core State Standards



Progress Monitoring



Support for Differentiated Instruction



Learning Progressions

Instructional Resources



Year-to-year Longitudinal Progress



Instructional Planning



Learning to Read Dashboard





Screening Report

New Jersey ASK Printed Tuesday, December 13, 2011 1:57:27 PM

School: East Elementary School

Reporting Period: 9/1/2011 - 9/15/2011

(Fall)

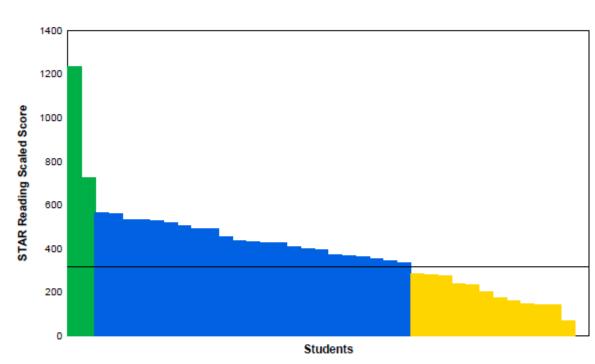
Report Options

Reporting Parameter Group: All Demographics [Default]

Grade: 3

Which students aren't reaching benchmark?

State Screening Report

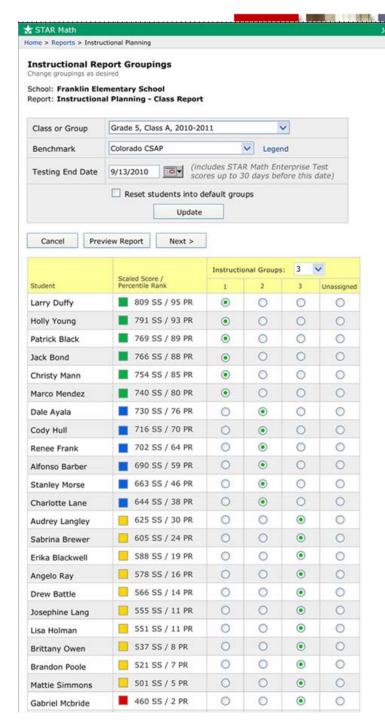


Categories / Levels	Current Benchmark d	Number	Percent	Benchmark At Time of State Test
Proficient				
Advanced Proficient	At/Above 615 SS	2	5%	At/Above 677 SS
Proficient	At/Above 319 SS	23	62%	At/Above 414 SS
Category Total		25	68%	
Less Than Proficient				
Partially Proficient	Below 318 SS	12	32%	Below 414 SS
Category Total		12	32%	



How can I best target instruction?

Instructional Grouping



Manuals | Help | Log Out

Available

Live Chat Support



What are my students ready to learn next?

Instructional Planning Report











Instructional Planning Report

for Lisa Stone

Printed Monday, September 13, 2010 10:03:15 AM

School: Oakwood Elementary School Class: Math 4A

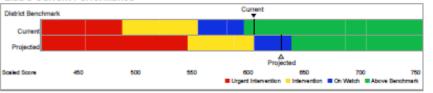
Teacher: Mrs. M. Adams

Grade: 4

STAR Math Enterprise Test Results

Current SS (Scaled Score): 602 Projected SS for 06/10/11: 634 Algebra Readiness: Lisa has not yet met the end of year algebra readiness grade level expectations for grade 4.

Lisa's Current Performance



Skills to Learn

Skills listed below are suggested skills Lisa should work on based on her last STAR Math Enterprise Test. These skills should be challenging, but not too difficult for Lisa. Combine this information with your own knowledge of the student and use your professional judgment when designing an instructional program.

Numbers and Operations

Lisa understands larger numbers, including place value, and knows basic multiplication facts. Lisa should practice multiplying multi-digit numbers. Lisa should continue practicing multiplication and division facts until automaticity is achieved.

- 1. C> Multiply a 3- or 4-digit whole number by a 1-digit whole number
- 2. e> Multiply a 2-digit whole number by a 2-digit whole number
- Multiply a 3-digit whole number by a 2-digit whole number
- Multiply three 1- and 2-digit whole numbers
- 5. CF WP: Multiply a multi-digit whole number by a 1-digit whole number

Lisa has a beginning understanding of numeric expressions and equations. Lisa should practice identifying and extending growing and repeating number, nonnumeric, and pictorial patterns.

- 1. C> Identify a missing term in a multiplication or a division number pattern
- Extend a growing pictorial or nonnumeric pattern
- 3. ex identify a missing figure in a growing pictorial or nonnumeric pattern
- 4. C> Identify a missing figure in a repeating pictorial or nonnumeric pattern
- 5. C> Generate a table of paired numbers based on a rule

Geometry and Measurement

Lisa has an understanding of shapes, lines, and angles. Lisa should practice conversions of customary and metric units using whole numbers.

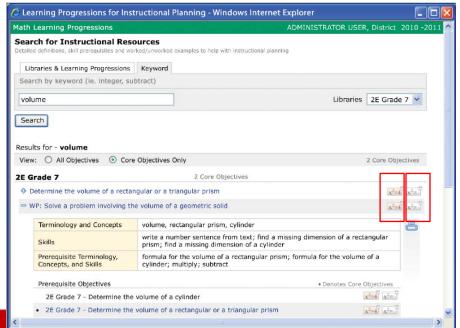
Skills to Learn

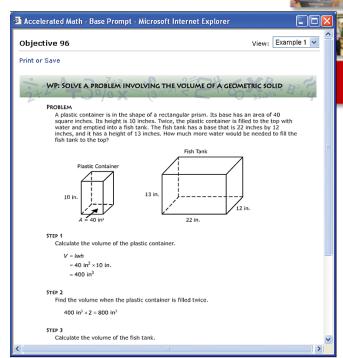
- 1. Convert between customary units of capacity using whole numbers
- Convert between customary units of weight using whole numbers
- Convert between metric units of capacity using whole numbers
- C> Designates a core skill. Core skills identify the most critical skills to learn at each grade level.

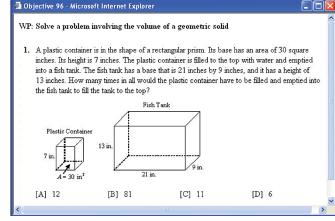


Where can I find instructional resources for the skills I need to teach?

Learning Progressions













1 of 2



School: South Elementary

Student Progress Monitoring Report

Printed Friday, December 3, 2010 6:31:24 PM

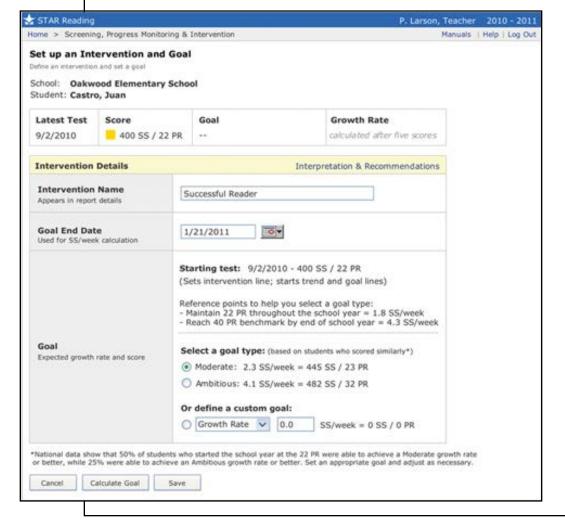
Reporting Period: 9/1/2010-1/21/2011 (Semester 1)

Timmerman, Megan

Grade: 3 Class: G3 - HM 101 ID: MV98234 Teacher: Davis, J.

How well are my students responding to intervention?

Student Progress Monitoring Report (Tully)















STAR Reading™ Performance Report Printed Thursday, March 18, 2009 2:47:13 PM

1 of 3

)/2011 (Years)

District: Renaissance District

Last Consolidated: 3/18/2009 12:01 AM Reporting Period: 09/02/2009-03/18/2010 (Outlook RP)

Report Options

Reporting Parameter Group: All Demographics [Default] Reporting Level: District

Group By: School

East Elementary

,														
_	Student Performance Outlook ^a On the March 2010 State Reading Accountability Assessment										STAR Reading Participation			
	Less Than Proficient				Proficient						09/02/2009-03/18/2010			
	Academ	ic Waming	Approaches Standards		Meets Standards		Exceeds Standards		Exemplary		Tested		Not Tested	
Grade	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
3	94	16	135	24	131	23	130	22	89	15	579	95	32	5
4	98	19	72	14	121	23	124	24	105	20	520	94	35	6
5	119	20	117	19	131	22	106	17	130	22	603	97	21	3
6	117	23	72	14	93	18	129	25	105	20	516	94	33	6
Summary	428	19	396	18	476	22	489	22	429	19	2,218	95	121	5

North Elementary

	Student Performance Outlook On the March 2010 State Reading Accountability Assessment										STAR Reading Participation			
		Less Thar	n Proficient		Proficient						09/02/2009-03/18/2010			
	Academic Warning		Approaches Standards		Meets Standards		Exceeds Standards		Exemplary		Tested		Not Tested	
Grade	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
3	73	15	92	18	107	22	92	18	135	27	499	97	17	3
4	73	14	96	19	110	22	133	26	97	19	509	95	26	5
5	90	17	87	16	103	20	133	25	115	22	528	95	26	5
6	109	23	135	29	73	16	78	17	70	15	465	96	20	4
Summary	345	17	410	20	393	20	436	22	417	21	2,001	96	89	4

displays the statistical tendency of the scores. If the trend line is higher than the gold star at the state test date, the student can be considered to be on the pathway toward proficiency.

CSAP information was last updated on 11/9/2010. State assessments are subject to change. For guidance interpreting data when state tests change, see Interpreting Performance Reports under STAR resources.



Are my students mastering State Standards?

State Standards Report



State Standards Report - Student

1 of 2

Common Core State Standards

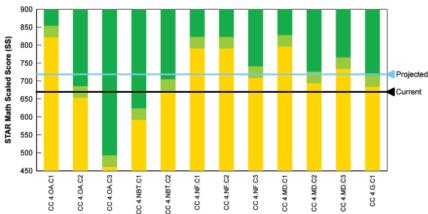
Printed Friday, September 10, 2010 12:04:02 PM

School: Eastside Elementary School

Baxter, Alicia

ID: BAXTA Class: G4 (Andrews) Grade: 4 Teacher: Andrews, M.

Estimated Mastery of Common Core State Standards



How STAR Math Estimates Mastery of State Standards

STAR Math provides an estimate of the student's mastery of standards by aligning them to the same 1400-point difficulty scale used to report STAR scores. The Estimated Mastery Range identifies a band of scores where the student is just below or above mastery. Monitor students in this range to confirm their understanding of the standard.

Est. Mastery Levels for Standards in Grade 4

Above Est. Mastery Range Est. Mastery Range Below Est. Mastery Range

STAR Math Test Results

— ■ Current Scaled Score: 670 Percentile Rank: 76 Test Date: 9/9/2010

Grade Equivalent: 4.9

Based on research, 75% of students at this student's level will achieve — < Projected Scaled Score: 719</p> this much growth. End of Year: 6/10/2011

Above Estimated Mastery Range on Current Test

CC 4.OA.C3 Generate and analyze patterns.

Generalize place value understanding for multi-digit whole numbers.

Within Estimated Mastery Range on Current Test

Gain familiarity with factors and multiples.

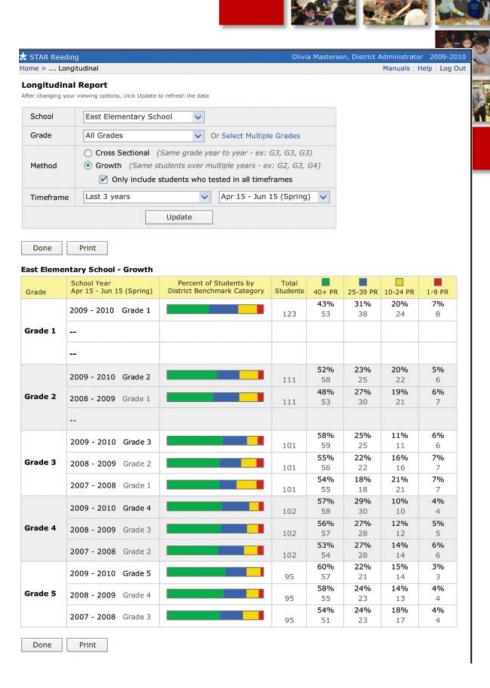
Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic.





Are my students growing from year to year?

Longitudinal Reporting





This really works

Bergenfield has 5 Elementary Schools, 1
 Middle School and 1 High School. All 7 Schools qualify for Title One Funds as over 40% of all students qualify for free and reduced lunch.
 More than 70% of the student population is in a minority sub-group as defined by NCLB.
 Bergenfield is not a privileged community.





 Step five is creating and implementing an intensive and ongoing professional-development program. The best districts and schools form collaborative teacher teams—professional learning communities—that meet often, make use of student data, and work with school-based coaches to improve curriculum and instruction. These schools and districts also include intensive summer institutes in their professionaldevelopment plans, to allow teachers opportunities to gain new knowledge.





Bergenfield's Outcomes

Based on evidence our observations have become a treasure hunt versus











Versus a witch hunt

Let's get rid of our most expensive teacher???











Administrator-Teacher Discourse

Of all the approaches available to educators to promote teacher learning, the most powerful is that of professional conversation.



Talk About Teaching! Charlotte Danielson 2009, Corwin Press









Utilize our own Human Capital to help each other



- One 5th grade teacher had 90% of her students Advanced Proficient in Math for 3 years in a row when district average was 20%
- Best practices are identified and shared within building and within district through a Best Practice Wiki
- Identify students by individual skill versus wide range of support
- Give parents access to Ren Learn and NWEA for skill support
- Involve all staff in process. It is not the programs that are effective, it is the people who use the programs. Expansive Leadership. Utilize the experts in you buildings- the teachers.
- Administrators must be honest and committed to continuous growth of the teacher. If everything is always great, are we not really just infantilizing the teacher? We all can and must keep growing.



Utilize our own Human Capital to help each other

- Added math coaches
- Changed the roles of Reading Specialists to Literacy Coaches
- Redefined how Basic Skills, ESL, Special Education services are delivered to be truly inclusive
- Created Extended Day Program and Summer School for added enrichment





The data speaks volumes











Most Improved High School

New Jersey



JACQUELINE MROZ

SCHOOL OFFICIALS IN BERGENFIELD, a working-class, largely immigrant community tucked among the wealthier boroughs of Bergen County, have been striving for years to improve academic performance

at the high school. That hard work seems to be paying off.

Bergenfield High School was the fastest rising school in this year's New Jersey Monthly survey of the Top High Schools, jumping nearly 100 spots, from 234 to 136.

"We've been breaking our backs," says Bergenfield schools superintendent Michael Kuchar. "We've really revolutionized the place."

Originally settled by Swedish and Dutch immigrants, Bergenfield later attracted new arrivals from Italy and Ireland. To- 1,250 students is 30 percent Filipino, 30 day, the town of 25,600 residents is mainly home to families with children who are on their way to being first-generation college students. The high school's population of

percent Hispanic, and about 30 percent white, says Kuchar. "Their parents want the best for their children," he says. "They want them to have a part of the American

dream."

Despite big cuts in state aid and an increase in enrollment, Bergenfield High School has managed to reduce class size, achieve better test scores, have fewer kids drop out, and send more students to four-year colleges since the last survey, published in 2008.

How did they do it?

Over the past few years, school officials have focused intensely on academic achievement, creating pro-(Continued on page 79)

grams that increase the rigor of coursework. They set up after-school clubs for kids who struggled with homework. They started a ninth-grade academy that helps students with the transition from middle school to high school. They used mentors to start a program for incoming freshmen interested in engineering and math. They created partnerships with New Jersey colleges and universities that allow students to take courses for college credit. And they doubled the number of Advanced Placement classes.

Jim Fasano, principal of Bergenfield High, says the school has worked hard to get students interested in going to college, busing them to different universities for tours.

And they created an alternative high school within the school system, where students are placed if they are at risk of dropping out or have fallen behind. There, they receive individualized attention in a small-class setting. Students from nearby schools are also sent there to help offset

"We've had twelve students graduate from high school this year that were in line to drop out," says Kuchar. "That's a

Like many other towns in the state, Bergenfield had a tough year financially. The school district lost \$1.6 million in state aid last year and another \$2.88 million under

the Christie budget for the new school year.

TOP SCHOOLS



enrollment, Bergenfield High School has reduced class size

to lay off any teachers-in part because of a large number of retirements. According to Kuchar, there were seven teacher retirements at the high school, which he describes as "tremendous breakage." However, he says the district was able to replace four of those teachers, and fifteen existing teachers will make up for some of the remaining gap by teaching additional periods under a "generous settlement" with the teachers' union. Further, the district has cut the number of administrators and consolidated some positions. For instance, in addition to being superintendent of schools, Kuchar will serve as director of guidance at the high school this year-at no extra salary. Last year, when Fasano was named principal, his previous position as assistant high school principal was eliminated, leaving only one assistant principal where in past years there had been two.

Shifting resources also enabled the high school to reduce average class size from about 24 students to 21, in large part by turning basic-skills teachers into classroom teachers

"Our motto is, 'children come first,' and that translates into classrooms come first," says Kuchar, who is in his sixth year as superintendent and was previously the high school principal for four years. "We put all our time, money, and resources in-Despite that, Bergenfield has not had to where it hits most-the classroom."

Top 10 Most Improved High Schools

2010 Rank	2008 Rank	2-year rank change	High School	County
136	234	98	Bergenfield	Bergen
163	245	82	Liberty (Jersey City)	Hudson
117	196	79	Creative and Performing Arts (Camden)	Camden
221	292	71	Cicely Tyson Performing Arts (East Orange)	Essex
217	287	70	Hillside	Union
113	178	65	David Brearley (Kenilworth)	Union
141	198	57	North Arlington	Bergen
106	162	56	Dumont	Bergen
110	166	56	Dunellen	Middlesex
138	194	56	North Warren Regional (Blairstown)	Warren

56 September 2010 NJMONTHLY.COM





Bloomberg Businessweek: 2nd best place to raise kids in NJ











100 Best Communities for Young People

 Only community in New Jersey to be selected in 2012













Questions

Our presentation can be found on www.bergenfield.org

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