

A+ SCHOOLS PROGRAM

LOCAL PARTNERSHIP PLAN

The Nixa A+ Schools Program was developed in cooperation with the Nixa A+ and STC Local Advisory Committee. This committee is comprised of members from local businesses, labor organizations, higher education, and vocational/technical schools, parents, school staff, students, board of education members, retired educator, and others who express an interest in serving on this committee.

ORIGINAL PLAN

Developed--March, 1998

Revised--January 7, 1999

Board Approval--February 11, 1999

PLAN REVIEWED/REVISED

Partnership Committee Review of Plan -- October 19, 2004

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Partnership Committee Review of Plan -- November 10, 2006

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Nixa Partnership Plan

NIXA PUBLIC SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Nixa Public Schools, dedicated to our legacy of excellence, is to ensure all students achieve maximum potential and graduate with the knowledge, skills and character necessary to succeed as productive, informed, and engaged citizens in a diverse society by providing a quality, comprehensive, world-class education in a safe and secure learning environment.

Purpose of the Partnership Plan

The purpose of this Partnership Plan is to develop a framework which will assist in building cooperative relationships between Nixa Public Schools, local businesses, labor organizations, higher education, and career/technical schools. This collaborative relationship is expected to increase communication and promote joint efforts between the community and schools in working together for the benefit and education of all students.

Provisions of the Partnership Plan

The provisions of this Partnership Plan are focused on establishing a system that provides the Nixa Public School and in particular Nixa High School the opportunity to exchange information with its partners. This process, in part, establishes a foundation for efforts to plan, implement, and evaluate the efforts of our district in meeting the goals of the A+ Schools Program.

The A+ Schools Program focuses on the following three goals:

- All students will graduate from high school;
- All students will complete a selection of high school courses that are challenging and for which there are identified learning expectations;
- All students will proceed from high school graduation to a college or post-secondary career/vocational or technical school or high-wage job with work place skill development opportunities.

Plan of Activities for Partnership Provisions

The A+ Schools Program at Nixa High School addresses the above goals by providing opportunities for all high school students to:

1. be involved in career planning via articulated career pathways;
2. develop a six-year course of study based on individual student career goals;
3. participate in job shadowing and/or internship experiences;
4. acquire a better understanding of specific careers through career fairs, Personal Plans of Study, and presentations by guest speakers;
5. pursue post-secondary education by qualifying for the A+ Schools Award Program which pays the tuition and general fees for a student to attend any participating Missouri community college, vocational, or career/technical school.

Nixa Partnership Plan Overview

The Nixa Partnership Plan was developed by the Nixa A+ Advisory Committee which is comprised of local businesses, labor leaders, parents, senior citizens, students, high school staff, and representatives of colleges and post-secondary vocational and technical schools. The Partnership Plan was designed to facilitate successful accomplishments of the three A+ goals as well as encourage involvement and commitment from the local community. To accomplish these goals the following five areas, which are outlined in the A+ Schools Program guidelines, are included in the Nixa Partnership Plan.

I. ***Mechanism to Receive Information***

Specify a mechanism to receive information on an annual basis from those who developed the plan in addition to retired educators and senior citizens, as well as educators, leaders, members and businesses from the community to update the plan in order to best meet the goals of the program.

II. ***At-Risk Program***

Detail the procedures used in the school to identify students who may drop out of school. Explain intervention services to be used to meet the needs of students who may be at risk of dropping out of school.

III. ***Career Counseling and Mentoring Services***

Outline counseling and mentoring services provided to students who will enter the work force immediately upon graduating from high school.

IV. ***Apprenticeship and Internship***

Address apprenticeship and intern programs for high school students.

V. ***Recruitment of Volunteers***

Procedures for the recruitment of volunteers from the community to serve in the school.

Evaluation of Partnership Plan

The Nixa A+ Advisory Committee will evaluate the A+ Schools Program and the Partnership Plan on an annual basis. This evaluation will occur during an advisory meeting and/or through a mailing each school year. Results of this and other evaluations relevant to the success of the A+ Schools Program will be shared with the committee with the purpose of receiving input.

I. MECHANISM TO RECEIVE INFORMATION

Specify the mechanism to receive information on an annual basis from those who developed the plan in addition to senior citizens, community leaders, and teachers.

To address this component of the Partnership Plan the following strategies will be utilized:

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Nixa A+ Advisory Committee will be comprised of individuals representing various careers in the Nixa community and at least one representative of the various mandated constituent groups including parents, community leaders, senior citizens, representatives of community colleges, teachers, and local school officials.

First Year—During the first year of the A+ Schools Program, the Nixa A+ Advisory Committee will meet at least four times to offer input, develop program guidelines, and prepare the initial Partnership Plan.

Second and Third Years—During the second and third years of the A+ Schools Program, the Nixa A+ Advisory Committee will meet at least three times annually to offer input, revise program guidelines, and update the local Partnership Plan in order to best meet the needs and goals of the program.

Continuation and Sustainability—Once Nixa High School has received A+ status, the Nixa A+ Advisory Committee will meet annually to review program guidelines and update the Nixa Partnership Plan.

DISSEMINATION

Media Publication—Information concerning the A+ Program and the A+ advisory meetings will be submitted to the Chief Communication Officer for publication when it is appropriate.

Nixa School Board—Accounts of the Nixa A+ Advisory Committee activities will be included in reports submitted to the Nixa Board of Education annually.

INPUT

Media Publication—Minutes from previous meetings will be made available to interested parties upon request.

Community and School Organizations—Information about the A+ Schools Program and the Nixa Partnership Plan will be made available to the public through the A+ webpage. A+ Program information and/or the A+ Partnership Plan is available upon request to any community or school organizations.

Nixa A+ Advisory Committee—Members of the Nixa A+ Advisory Committee will review and revise the Nixa Partnership Plan on an annual basis and will be given the opportunity to discuss and respond to any recommended changes.

EVALUATION

This plan for receiving information will be evaluated annually by the Nixa A+ Advisory Committee and modifications implemented as necessary. Recommendations for modification will be implemented as necessary for the next school year at the A+ Advisory meeting.

II. AT-RISK PROGRAM

Description of procedures utilized to identify students who are at-risk of dropping out of school and of intervention services to be used to meet the needs of at-risk students.

To address this criteria of the Partnership Plan, the following strategies will be utilized:

At-risk students may be described as those who are “educationally adversely affected by circumstances either in or out of school”. Students are classified as at-risk when the effect is manifested in poor attendance, academic failure or a desire to quit school.

The Nixa Public School District has identified a part-time District At-Risk Coordinator. A counselor from each district building, a certified staff member from each building, and a representative from the Alternative School will serve on the district at-risk committee. The responsibilities of this committee are outlined in the *Nixa Public Comprehensive At-Risk Manual*.

Some of the indicators used by Nixa Public Schools’ counselors, teachers, and administrators in the identification of students at-risk include but are not limited to:

In-School Indicators

Academic deficits

- Academically below grade level by two or more years
- Lacks credits to graduate with his/her class
- Academic achievement and scholastic aptitude test scores below the twenty-fifth percentile
- Have two or more failing grades
- Limited English proficiency

Disruptive behaviors

- Recurring discipline problems
- Referral to social services or juvenile authorities
- Frequent in-school or out-of-school suspensions
- Poor social adjustments or deviant social behavior
- Unable to relate to authority

Students disengaged from school

- Excessive school absences or truancy
- Negative attitudes toward school
- Not involved in any school activities

Out-of-School Indicators

- Teen pregnancy or parenting
- Limited educational achievement of parent(s)
- Physically or emotionally abused
- Required to work to manage financially
- Chemical dependencies
- Economically disadvantaged
- Frequent mobility
- Membership in a gang or other deviant group
- Involvement with juvenile authorities
- Referral to mental health or social services
- Involvement with the court for illegal activities
- Homeless population
- Foster care population

A comprehensive set of descriptors used as at-risk criteria have been developed by Nixa Public Schools. The at-risk checklist and referral forms used by school personnel in evaluating at-risk behaviors are included in the Nixa District Comprehensive At-Risk Manual. The Nixa District Comprehensive At-Risk Manual further details referral procedures and outlines various intervention strategies available in and out of the district. A list of the At-Risk Programs specific to Nixa High School can be found in the appendix of this document. Referral forms are available in each building.

II. AT-RISK PROGRAM

(CONTINUED)

PROCEDURES TO IDENTIFY AT-RISK STUDENTS

Each building in the Nixa Public Schools has established a student assistance team (Care Team) to assist in the identification of students at risk of dropping out of school. In cooperation with the building counselors and administrators, this team recommends possible intervention strategies. In addition to parent, teacher, staff, and student referrals, the following sources of information are also used to identify students who may be at risk of educational failure and/or dropping out of school.

1. Progress reports and semester grades
2. Behavior and discipline referrals
3. Number of tardies, absences, and/or trancies
4. In-school /Out-of-school suspensions
5. Teacher and staff referrals to the counselors and the Care Team
6. PowerSchool parent/student portal gives access to grades on a daily basis
7. Review of standardized test scores, credits, and grade-point average
8. Referral from the School Resource Officer

DESCRIPTION OF INTERVENTION SERVICES TO BE UTILIZED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF AT-RISK STUDENTS

Nixa High School takes necessary steps to keep students from dropping out of school. Some of the specific intervention services provided by the district include:

- Academic and behavior monitoring
- District Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program
- Mentoring
- Job Shadowing and Internship
- Crisis Intervention
- Summer school
- Parents as Teachers Program including screenings, home visits and parent group meetings
- Home visit by school representatives
- Open house and parent/teacher conferences
- Opportunities Plus for students who are at risk of academic failure/IT courses
- Co-Teaching and double staffing through Title I and special education programs
- Special Education programs in elementary through high school classes
- Older adults reading and sharing programs at the elementary level
- Supplemental reading and math programs at the elementary level
- Tutoring programs at all levels
- Junior High and High School At-Risk Classes
- Care Teams/Community Action Team (CAT)
- Tutoring and mentoring through the A+ Schools Program
- STAR time at the high school and Advisory Time at the Junior High (advisor/advisee programs)
- Super STAR for students who are failing one or more academic classes
- Individual/small group counseling
- District substance abuse counselor
- Academic 9th hours for students who do not complete their work
- Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO) evening tutoring opportunities at NHS
- In-school rather than out-of-school suspension
- After school detention rather than in-school or out-of-school suspension
- Classroom guidance activities with all buildings having at least one full-time counselor
- Parent/Student portal
- On-Line courses

The Appendix provides a list of programs specific to Nixa High School.

III. CAREER COUNSELING AND MENTORING

Outline of counseling and mentoring services to be provided to students who will enter the civilian or military workforce and/or pursue higher education upon high school graduation.

All students, beginning in the 7th grade, are counseled toward selection of a career pathway and also receive assistance in the development of a personal plan of study during their eighth grade year. In subsequent years, students annually review their chosen career pathway and personal plan of study. Adjustments to personal plans of study will be made as needed. Counselors work with students individually and in small groups and students also receive assistance from their advisor.

IDENTIFICATION

Students are identified through the following procedures:

- Personal Plans of Study, which are revised annually and indicate a student's chosen career path
- Tests—ASVAB, Formal/Informal Interest Inventories
- Career Portfolio
- Computerized career/college information program
- Aspire test administered to sophomores
- COMPASS testing for seniors
- ACT test for all juniors
- Work Keys assessment for seniors

COUNSELING/MENTORING

In addition to assistance provided to students through the guidance department and through the Nixa High School Advisory Program, the following offerings serve to assist students:

- Sophomores are given the opportunity to tour Ozarks Technical College and explore program offerings.
- All juniors have the opportunity to participate in a career fair
- All juniors and seniors participate in a college fair
- Juniors and Seniors may participate in an internship program.
- Some course offerings which are particularly helpful for students entering the workforce upon graduation may include: Applied Biology, Business classes, Personal Finance, Welding/Construction Skills, Computer Aided Drafting, Project Lead the Way and Career and Family Leadership classes.
- Job Shadowing opportunities are available for sophomores, juniors and seniors.
- Former graduates and employees from various businesses are available to provide mentoring and counseling to students concerning career opportunities.
- Additional career awareness and exploration activities are available in grades K-12 through the district's School-to-Career initiative.
- In sixth, seventh, and eighth grades students are exposed to a variety of career exploration activities including a career fair.
- Senior Seminar Program /**College and Career Counselor**

IV. APPRENTICESHIP AND INTERNSHIP

Address apprenticeship and intern programs for Nixa High School students.

Students have numerous opportunities to develop career and occupational awareness while completing their chosen area of academic studies. Some of the programs available include:

Career Internship Program

Students have the opportunity to participate in an internship program their junior or senior year. The objective of this course is to allow the student to explore a chosen career by working a minimum of ten hours per week at an internship site. Many community businesses have expressed interest in participating in this activity. Details of this program are outlined in the Career Internship Manual.

OTC Internship/Apprenticeship Programs

Students enrolled in Ozarks Technical Community College have the opportunity to participate in various career educational programs through OTC including internships and on-the-job training experiences.

Dual Credit/Articulation/Advanced Placement Classes

For the college bound students, the district provides advanced placement classes, dual credit classes and articulated classes for college credit.

Job Shadowing

Opportunities exist for sophomores, juniors, and seniors to participate in job shadowing experiences. Specifics of this program are outlined in the Job Shadowing Manual.

Library/Office Practice

Students have the opportunity to gain experience in general office work, library work, and computer technology through this class.

Special Education Transition Program

Special Education Transition or Coop/Study Program involves classroom and work-site instruction in developing the skills necessary to acquire and maintain employment. The program is designed to provide special needs students with work experience as preparation for permanent employment. This program involves a continuum of work experiences for the special needs student, e.g., school-based non-paid to paid work as well as community based non-paid to paid work experiences. Another program available at Nixa High School is the Coop Program. This is a partnership between the school district and the State of Missouri, Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, to give special education students the chance to gain work skills while gaining high school credit.

Child Development Internship

This course provides students the opportunity to apply and expand knowledge acquired in Advanced Child Development class. During the scheduled class period, students will intern in elementary classes at Nixa elementary schools. Prerequisites: Successful completion ("C" or above for year in Child Development I) and recommendation of the child development teacher. Child Development I & II are articulated with OTC.

V. VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

Identify procedures for the recruitment of volunteers from the community to serve in the school.

The Nixa Advisory Committee working jointly with A+ and School-to-Career Coordinators will facilitate efforts to recruit volunteers from the community to serve the school by participating in A+ Schools Program and School-to-Career activities. Volunteers will also be recruited every year to serve on the A+ Advisory Committee, the School-to-Career Advisory Committee, and the Vocational Advisory Committee. In particular, volunteers will be recruited to participate in the following high school activities:

- internships
- career fairs
- financial aid
- library assistance
- business partnerships
- job shadowing
- college fairs
- tutoring/mentoring
- assisting students with special needs

RECRUITMENT PROCEDURES

Recruitment procedures include:

- The Nixa Parent/Teacher/Student Association in each district building recruits volunteers during their annual membership drive. The PTSA works with schools to determine areas in which volunteers are needed (library, reading programs, etc.) and these are included on the volunteer request form. Members of the PTSA also call members to request assistance with special projects as needed.
- The Local Partnership Committee and the A+ and School-to-Career Coordinator will work jointly with the Nixa Chamber of Commerce to develop Business and Education Partnerships that focus on recruiting volunteers for the school.
- Area and local businesses will be contacted by the A+ Coordinator/School-to-Career Coordinator, College and Career Counselor and members of the Advisory Committee to obtain volunteers for specific activities as needed.
- Public announcements will be made through the district Quick News to request volunteers for specific activities.
- Contact is also made through the Chamber of Commerce and civic organizations, etc.
- Students are asked to encourage their parents to serve as business partners and/or guest speakers.

Volunteers are placed in a particular program with consideration to:

- the district's needs,
- the need of a particular teacher, and/or
- the volunteer's particular experience.

APPENDIX

AT-RISK PROGRAMS

Programs Specific to Nixa High School

The following are some of the Nixa High School intervention programs and services which are used to meet the needs of at-risk students:

- ***A+ Schools Program***--Provides financial incentives for students to maintain a 2.5 GPA, 95% attendance, and a record of good citizenship.
- ***Alternative Education Program***--Nixa High School provides an Alternative Education Program for students who are not successful in the traditional education program. (SCORE, Opportunities Plus, IT courses, MO Options)
- ***Counseling Department/Program***--Nixa High School offers student support through the building counseling office and the comprehensive guidance and counseling program. There are five counselors available to assist with all types of student support services.
- ***At-Risk Classroom***--Students who are not passing core academic classes receive additional assistance by being assigned to the at-risk program.
- ***Virtual courses***
- ***Student Progress Reports*** -- Disseminated at 3 week intervals
- ***Freshman Mentoring Program*** -- Faculty members mentor freshman students determined to be at-risk of failure.
- ***Baby-Think-It-Over***--Through the Child Development Classes, students take home a lifelike six-pound doll to care for around the clock. This gives students a glimpse at what it is like to care for a child.
- ***CARE Team***--Teachers may refer students whom they feel are at-risk to the building CARE Team. This team meets to determine possible services and intervention strategies which might be helpful for the student. **Students may also be referred to the Community Action Team (CAT).**
- ***Co Teaching***--Students are often served through a dual-staffed classroom.
- ***Correspondence Courses***--Students may enroll in correspondence classes to assist in making up or gaining additional credits.
- ***Internship***--Juniors and seniors may participate in an internship program for one or two semesters.
- ***Job Shadowing***--Sophomores, juniors, and seniors may participate in job shadowing experiences.
- ***Computerized Career/College Research Program.***
- ***Mentoring/Tutoring***--Opportunities are provided for students to serve as mentors and tutors and students also have the opportunity to receive academic assistance through this program.
- ***School-to-Career***--Career Awareness, exploration and preparation opportunities and activities are provided.
- ***Special Education Services***--The following classes are offered for students with special needs: behavior disorder/emotionally disturbed, learning disabled, mentally challenged, and speech/language disorders.
- ***STAR (Student Tutorial Academic Resource) Program*** - Every student is assigned a teacher advisor. The purpose of program is to have time built into each day for students to focus on their academic studies.
- ***Super Star*** -- ***Students are assigned to an academic teacher during STAR time if they are failing 1 or more core subjects. In Super Star students receive more intensive academic intervention.***
- ***Summer School*** -- Summer school is provided at all grade levels. Students in high school may earn extra credits or enroll in core classes to earn credits necessary for graduation.

- ***Team Conferences***--The guidance and counseling staff arranges conferences for all the teachers of a particular student to determine strategies to help students become more successful in school. The student and his parents are also included in this meeting.
- ***Tutoring***--Tutoring by teachers, STAR tutors and A+ tutors
- ***Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO)-evening tutoring sessions in core content areas available***
- ***Vocational Evaluation and Assessment***--Assessment and evaluations are provided through Ozarks Technical Community College
- ***Pyramid of Interventions/RTI***