

Preliminary Report, Highlights: Silver Trail Middle School, Broward County

DATA DRIVEN DECISION MAKING: Continuous monitoring through the use of benchmark testing, teacher-made tests and remedial instruction assist the staff in assessing progress toward school improvement goals. There is an emphasis on writing school-wide. Students' daily use of journaling and the incorporation of rubrics to assess progress are ongoing. Instructional materials and methods are based on best practices training. Teachers are encouraged to attend and to share information gained from workshops and conferences at team and staff meetings. Continuous training and high expectations of and for all staff members yield good results for Silver Trail's students.

Results: School Grades: 2001 A; 2002 A; 2003 A.

Practices that Promote High Performance:

- Continuous monitoring through the use of benchmark testing
- Students' daily use of journaling and the incorporation of rubrics to assess progress
- Instructional materials and methods based on best practices training

SHARED LEADERSHIP: The principal's leadership style reflects shared decision-making and is evident at all levels. The principal works with an administrative team of school leaders and utilizes faculty, departmental, and team meetings for communication and decision-making. Teachers help interview new faculty members, chair committees, plan school events and activities, and manage faculty meetings. Parents and teachers are given an opportunity to have input on decisions regarding student placement, instructional material and methods as well as other decisions that affect the quality of education at Silver Trail. Both written and verbal communication with all stakeholders is an important goal that serves to promote informed decision-making.

Results: FCAT (NRT) scores higher than district and state percentile ranks for reading and math in grades 6-8.

Practices that Promote High Performance:

- Empowering departments and teachers to make decisions reflecting instructional needs
- High expectations for teachers
- Formal recognition of teacher accomplishments

COLLEGIALITY: A collaborative atmosphere is prevalent in the school due to the principal's emphasis on working together as a team in order to increase student learning and provide a safe school environment. However, collaboration extends beyond the building. The school is also a part of the Flanagan Innovation Zone. The principals of Flanagan High School, two middle schools and the elementary schools of the area meet during the school year to articulate information that will assist staff in meeting the needs of the students and to plan activities that will maximize success at all levels. The Innovation Zone also offers staff development focusing on the transition at critical points when students are moving from elementary to middle to high school. Parents are included in Zone meetings and become part of the communication loop across levels.

Results: FCAT (SSS) Reading and Math scores for grades 6-8 higher than district and state averages.

Practices that Promote High Performance:

- Collaborative atmosphere with a team approach
- Development of the Flanagan Innovation Zone to extend collaboration and communication across all levels K-12
- Involving parents in the communication and decision making loops across levels