

PLANNED IMPORVEMENT FOR THE SCHOOL AND DISTRICT

Evergreen Park Community High School had a successful year, however we did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) overall or in 5 of the 6 subgroups. While as a school we are disappointed, below are the many positive things which did occur:

- 100% of our juniors who qualified to take the PSAE test in junior year participated in the testing in spring of 2009.
- Although EPCHS juniors only exceeded in one subgroup (reading, white), there was growth in the English, all subgroup. Math did have a drop in its score and a new subgroup (minimum number of 45 students to be counted in the AYP calculation) has been added. Below you will see the current scores noting that 70% was the benchmark for this year:
 - Reading All = 64.4% White = 75.0% Black = 38.0%
 - Math All = 53.7% White = 63.5% Black = 30.0%
- The EPCHS graduation rate for 2009 (92.4%) exceeded the State Minimum AYP Graduation Rate of 87.1% and is almost four percent higher than last year.
- The EPCHS attendance rate for 2009 (94.0) exceeded the State AYP Minimum target of 93.7.

In addition, the class of 2009 had an average ACT composite of 21.2 (state = 20.6), English 22.2 (state = 20.2), mathematics 20.9 (state = 20.6), science 21.2 (state = 20.5), and reading 21.2 (state = 20.5). These numbers show a minimum of one point of growth in each area, while the state average went down in each area.

Students in the class of 2009 were extremely successful, with 24 students selected as Illinois State Scholars by the Illinois Students Assistance Commission. Our number continues to increase with \$5,315,509.00 in scholarships offered to individual students in this class.

Our school improvement goals for 2009-10 continue to focus on reading and writing, as well as math and science, with an emphasis on preparing our students for standardized tests. Our School Improvement Plans for 2008-09 include the following:

1. All certified staff will work in Professional Learning Communities to develop both short-term and long-term SMART goals with a focus on improved student achievement. On-going professional development and support will be provided to all PLC teams through Achievement Strategies workshops.
2. All teachers will be trained in the third phase of "Reading Across the Curriculum" strategies with a focus for 2008-09 on "post- reading" strategies to improve overall comprehension. These strategies will provide innovative ideas for teachers working with diverse classrooms and with students who exhibit a variety of learning needs.
3. The curriculum director will coordinate a vocabulary workshop institute to continue to augment the language arts curriculum and engage students and staff in an on-going focus on ACT vocabulary development.
4. A Summer Reading Initiative has been implemented to provide a common learning experience in an effort to encourage participation in the intellectual life of our school. Through the Learning Resource Center, a series of events designed to stimulate critical thinking and discussion, as well as encourage a sense of community among parents, faculty, and staff, will take place throughout the year.
5. All science teachers will continue to implement a science department comprehensive test prep program in all classes with a focus on review of science vocabulary and concepts, practice in specific science reading, and data analysis and focus on experimental design.

6. The science department will continue to evaluate effectiveness of current science sequence of courses, as well as analyze science elective program.
7. The math department will continue to evaluate student achievement in the required six math courses, as well as focus on review and test prep in Algebra 2-B.
8. EPCHS is currently working to improve student achievement of students with Individualized Educational Programs (IEP) by offering a co-taught sequence of classes in the core areas. Ten teams of teachers are working with the ISBE sponsored LRE (least restrictive environment) CHOICES Initiative to continue to train regular and special education teachers to work together in the same classroom to present a regular education curriculum with appropriate accommodations for students with special needs. Co-teaching teams have created an action plan that is being implemented. Data is being collected and analyzed as we evaluate the effectiveness of the program. Additionally, we have trained two teams to serve as on-site coaches to further support our co-teaching teams.
9. Teachers participate in on-going training in the computer programs of KeyTrain, Learning Express Advantage, and Vantage Learning to enhance classroom instruction of writing and review both core area and WorkKeys concepts.
10. English department teachers have developed The Mustang Breakfast Club. This sixteen week program offered on Saturday mornings provides an opportunity for juniors to build upon and solidify their language arts skills.
11. The Mustang After School Alliance (MASA) is a problem based after school program designed to offer supplemental algebra and language arts instruction and enrichment to our 9th grade students.
12. The LRC has purchased more than 300 non-fiction titles to support the curriculum.
13. English department teachers will continue to implement a comprehensive test prep program that involves students in a wide range of exercises centered around the reading, writing, and communications skills that are fundamental to academic success.
14. Implementation of the EPCHS Strategic Plan begins in the 2008-09 school year. This five-year plan includes three long-term objectives:
 - I. Perception/Public Relations
Improve the community perception of Evergreen Park Community High School.
 - II. Career/College Counseling
Review current career/college services and implement new services to address the needs of the students and parents.
 - III. Professional Development Committee
Develop an ongoing professional development program that empowers teachers in the school improvement process which will support and improve student learning.