

Middle School Reform

Phase 1
Recommendations



The Following
Recommendations are on Track
for 2012-13

Vision and Mission and Self Assessment for Pinellas County Middle Schools

- VISION: 100% Student Success
- MISSION: Pinellas County Middle Schools will engage students in meaningful instruction by creating a safe and respectful learning environment to build community and sense of belonging for all students
- Research-Based resources for a school self assessment needs assessment available to all middle schools; Schools that Work, This We Believe, Pre-Career Academy Needs Assessment

Pre-Career Academy Pilot Programs and Program Planning

- Clearwater and Lealman Intermediate Schools to open pilot Pre-Career Academies based on student interest surveys
- Grant to open an Information Technology Pre-Career Academy has been awarded to Pinellas Park Middle. A second grant has been submitted for Bay Point Middle
- Other middle schools will be supported in conducting needs assessment and student surveys to identify Pre-Career Academy programs to develop in subsequent years

Task Force to Reduce Chronic Disruptions to the Learning Environment Recommendations

- Final recommendations to expand alternative site opportunities for disruptive middle school students will be shared later at this workshop.
- These “Pathways to Success” programs at two middle sites will be established to accommodate 60 middle school students (an increase of 36 seats from the current MS DELTA program).
- A revised process for referring students , including ESE students, is being developed with the Area Superintendents.

Course Recovery Classes (Port of Entry) for Overage and Failing Students

- A full year class section for course recovery is being provided at all middle schools.
- A variety of options are available to schools to deliver this recovery or acceleration.
 - Moodle, NovaNet Bridges, Part Time, Pinellas Virtual
- Opportunities for students to make up course failures, to stay on grade level and to take grade level courses to accelerate a grade (i.e. 6.5 or 7.5 modified curriculum)

Social Studies Curriculum

- Highly engaging and participatory core curricular “History Alive” instructional materials have been selected for adoption in 6th and 8th grade for all middle schools

Full AVID Implementation at all Traditional Middle Schools

- Provide expanded professional development in core content subjects with AVID district directors and consultants (Title II budget request pending)
- Promote pro-social school wide behaviors within the AVID school wide philosophy, options for Social Emotional Learning Benchmarks, Character and Civility/Respect Education programs and professional development (Title II budget)

Title I Funds for 6 Middle Schools

- Two high need (Intervene – Azalea and D-Pinellas Park) will be staffed to offer additional learning opportunities with 8 period schedule with staff teaching 6 courses
- 6 schools with Title I funds can implement several additional opportunities within the matrix through funding additional classroom teachers, behavior specialists, etc. (see Title I column).

Additional Recommendations

Board Input Needed

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Title I Funds for 6 Middle Schools

- After a more recent review of the costs per school and the estimated Title I budget, it is recommended that two additional schools be provided supplemental Title I funds to implement the 6 of 8 schedule (Tyrone and John Hopkins).

Additional Recommendations from Executive Reform Committee

1. Scheduling continues to be a significant barrier to implementing many of the middle school reform recommendations. Principals express a need for a 6 of 8 model. There is also a need for a scheduling software application that is compatible with teaming.
 - After a more recent review of the costs per school and the estimated Title I budget with the Area Superintendents, it is recommended that two additional schools be provided supplemental Title I funds to implement the 6 of 8 schedule (Tyrone and John Hopkins).

Additional Recommendations from Executive Reform Committee

2. Fully implement a clearly defined staffing model to support middle school “house concept”, with 3 assistant principals, 3 guidance counselors, 3 clerks and a front office clerk for all middle schools

Additional recommendations from Executive Reform Committee (continued)

3. Support for developing the school-based “Success Academy” model with VE ESE teacher flexibility to support PS/RtI (Multi-Tiered Support System) for academic and behavioral interventions by restoring the lost unit from 2011-12

Additional recommendations from Executive Reform Committee (continued)

4. The need to address teaching pro-social skills is paramount. The following quote was shared . . .

“We need to get out of the discipline business and into the curriculum business, or we are going out of business”

Shared by Dawn Coffin and attributed to former PCS principal John Nicely

Next Steps Moving Forward

Phase 2

- This is not a one year – one shot effort, but an ongoing process to reform middle schools
- May – June - Begin planning for implementation of Phase I recommendations
- July – August - Reconvene stakeholder groups for continuing input for Phase 2 (year 2) recommendations.
- August 2012 – March 2013 – Implement Phase 1 and develop Phase 2 recommendations

Questions, Input and Discussion

- Recommendations definitely moving forward
- Recommendations in need of Board input