

## **Middle School Reform**

### **Recommendations Definitely Moving Forward 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**

- Instructional units (teachers) have been allocated to Clearwater and Lealman Intermediate Schools to open pilot Pre-Career Academies
- Grant to open an Information Technology Pre-Career Academy awarded for Pinellas Park Middle. A second grant has been submitted for Bay Point Middle
- Other middle schools will be supported in conducting needs assessments 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 off site seats 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 students (an increase of 36 seats from the current MS DELTA program). A revised process for referring students, including ESE students, will be developed by the Area Superintendents. The Pathways to Success programs will provide enhanced behavioral supports with teaching assistants, social worker/psychologist support, staff training, and technology enhancements.

#### **Course recovery classes (Port of Entry) for overage students and failing students**

- A full year class section funded for all schools. Moodle ELP, Classroom Teacher Assignments, NovaNet Bridge at 3 pilot schools (Azalea, Bay Point, Largo), new part time Pinellas Virtual School course options being developed. Provides an opportunity for students to make up course failures, to stay on grade level and to take grade level courses to accelerate a grade (grade level acceleration, similar to 6.5, 7.5, which are also available to schools that could fund with Title I funds)

#### **Social Studies Curriculum**

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

#### **Full AVID Implementation and Pro-Social Curriculum Support at all traditional middle schools**

- Provide expanded professional development in core content subjects with AVID district directors and consultants (Title II budget)

- 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). These resources can provide school based behavioral intervention programs (“Success Academy” model), additional Port of Entry classes, CTE elective courses, contracted services for behavioral needs assessment/professional development, to name a few

### **Additional Recommendations from Executive Reform Committee Board Input Requested**

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