

Louisiana Resource Guide For School Improvement Teams 2006

School Governance Strategist Group:

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Overview

The Louisiana State Improvement Grant (LaSIG) funded a group of individuals to create a resource guide for School Improvement Teams. This group, known as the School Governance Strategist Group created a document based on their own experiences as administrators, curriculum coordinators, and faculty engaged in the school improvement process on their campuses. Their goal was to create a product that users could access to obtain ideas, answer questions, and identify barriers and successes to a variety of school improvement issues. This document is a peer-to-peer resource guide for all School Improvement Teams.

This Strategist group has broad representation of the schools and districts across Louisiana including neighborhood, rural, and urban settings. The represented parishes are Livingston, Plaquemines, and Vermilion Parish. The members of the group also represent a variety of positions including administrators, curriculum coordinators, Title I coordinators, and teachers. The specific demographics of each school are located within this document. Note: Not all schools are represented in the document due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Many of the schools were not operational during the 2005-2006 school year and their demographics have since changed.

The process of creating this document was a comprehensive one, taking almost one year to complete. In the early Spring of 2006, interested participants were invited to participate as a Strategist. In order to participate, individuals had to be knowledgeable of the school improvement process, understand data collection and analysis, and have experience as a School Improvement Team member. Individuals were identified as having innovative and creative ways to overcome obstacles and find successful ways to improve School Improvement Team functioning. Once the group was established, it was up to them to determine their direction and form and function of their final product.

The group met face-to-face as well as communicated through the use of email and Blackboard. During each face-to-face meeting, family members and students from each school were invited to discuss school improvement and how families and students impact and are impacted by it. Much of the information obtained during these discussions can be found throughout the document.

The School Governance Strategist Group developed this document as a companion to the revised edition (Spring 2006) Tools for Success document. Its purpose is to assist school professionals in developing, implementing and evaluating effective school improvement team functioning within their individual schools. The overall goal of this document is improving student achievement, which is directly linked to an effective school improvement plan and a highly functioning school improvement team.

The document is divided into three main sections including Tips and Traps, Tools, and an Evaluation Rubric. The three sections are further subdivided into four levels of responsibility (district, principal, SIT, and staff) and three levels of functioning (planning, implementing, and evaluating). Various samples and examples are provided and hyperlinked within the Tools section to assist a school throughout the process. A rubric is provided to aid a school in evaluating their progress towards effective school improvement.

School Demographics

School Name: Belle Chasse Primary School
City/Town: Belle Chasse
School District: Plaquemines Parish
Location: Commercial Urban Rural
 Inner City Neighborhood
Title I: Yes No
Grade Levels: PreK-4
% Free/Reduced Lunch: 67%
Total Enrollment: 950
Ethnicity: 83 % White
14 % African American
1 % Hispanic/Latino
1 % Asian/Pacific Islander
1 % Other
School Contact Person: Paula Defley
Position: Curriculum Specialist
Email: pdefley@mail.ppsb.org
504-394-2841

School Name: Abbeville High School
City/Town: Abbeville
School District: Vermilion Parish
Location: Commercial Urban Rural
 Inner City Neighborhood
Title I: Yes No
Grade Levels: 9-12
% Free/Reduced Lunch: 0%
Total Enrollment: 819
Ethnicity: 55 % White
45 % African American
0 % Hispanic/Latino
5% Asian/Pacific Islander
0% Other
School Contact Person: Ralph Thibodeaux
Position: Principal
Email: ralpht@vrml.k12.la.us
337-893-1874

School Name: Denham Springs Freshman High
City/Town: Denham Springs
School District: Livingston Parish
Location: Commercial Urban Rural
 Inner City Neighborhood
Title I: Yes No
Grade Levels: 9th
% Free/Reduced Lunch: 0%
Total Enrollment: 588
Ethnicity: 91.3 % White
6.3 % African American
0 % Hispanic/Latino
0% Asian/Pacific Islander
2 % Other
School Contact Person: Monica Ballay
Position: Assistant Principal
Email: monica.ballay@lpsb.org
225-665-7890

School Name: Walker Jr. High School
City/Town: Walker
School District: Livingston Parish
Location: Commercial Urban Rural
 Inner City Neighborhood
Title I: Yes No
Grade Levels: 6-8
% Free/Reduced Lunch: 52%
Total Enrollment: 480
Ethnicity: 96% White
3 % African American
1% Hispanic/Latino
0% Asian/Pacific Islander
0% Other
School Contact Person: Lori Cothorn
Position: Curriculum Coordinator
Email: Lori.Cothorn@Lpsb.org
225-665-8970