

OFFICE OF EDUCATION PERFORMANCE AUDITS



**FINAL EDUCATION PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT
FOR
CALHOUN COUNTY MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL
CALHOUN COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM**

MARCH 2005

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION

The West Virginia Office of Education Performance Audits conducted an Education Performance Audit of Calhoun County Middle/High School in Calhoun County February 18, 2004.

A Follow-up Education Performance Audit of Calhoun County Middle/High School was conducted January 14, 2005. The purpose of the follow-up was to verify correction of the findings identified during the original Education Performance Audit. The review was in accordance with West Virginia Code §18-2E-5 and West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2320 which specify that a school that meets or exceeds the performance and progress standards but has other deficiencies shall remain on full accreditation status and a county school district shall remain on full approval status for the remainder of the accreditation period and shall have an opportunity to correct those deficiencies. The Code and policy include the provision that a school "...does not have any deficiencies which would endanger student health or safety or other extraordinary circumstances as defined by the West Virginia Board of Education."

EDUCATION PERFORMANCE AUDIT

NONCOMPLIANCES

5.1.1. Achievement.

This is the 1st year that Calhoun County Middle/High School did not attain adequate yearly progress (AYP) in one or more subgroups designated in 5.1.1. Achievement: (AS) all students, (W) white students, and (SES) economically disadvantaged students. In accordance with Section 10.5 of West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2320, *A Process for Improving Education: Performance Based Accreditation System*, the school was notified of any subgroup that initially did not make AYP in one year on any indicator. Calhoun County Middle/High School and Calhoun County were encouraged to revise the school and county Unified Improvement Plans when a subgroup is identified in any one year.

The Team determined that the Unified School Improvement Plan (USIP) had been revised to address Achievement.

FOLLOW-UP REVIEW

COMPLIANCE. The school met adequate yearly progress (AYP) in all applicable categories in the 2003-2004 school year.

7.1. Curriculum

7.1.17. Use of Advisory Councils. Each local education agency or multi-county technical center has a General Advisory Council that meets on a regular basis to provide advice on current job needs and on the relevancy of courses being offered. Each technical concentration has a program advisory council that meets on a regular basis to advise on course content, including which skills should be taught, instructional materials and equipment needed, and standards which should be met to assure student employability or preparedness for further education. (Policy 2510)

The vocational agriculture program did not have a program advisory council as required in West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2510.

FOLLOW-UP REVIEW

COMPLIANCE. A vocational agriculture program advisory council was formed in March 2004 and has met regularly since then.

Note: This area is no longer checked per House Bill 308 passed November 16, 2004.

7.7. Administrative Practices and School Community Relations

- 7.7.6. Local school improvement council, faculty senate, and curriculum team. A local school improvement council, faculty senate, and curriculum team are established, functioning, and meet the statutory requirements. (W.Va. Code §§8-5A-2, 18-5-14, 18-5A-5, & 18-5A-6; Policy 2510; Policy 5500.03)**

The Local School Improvement Council (LSIC) had met once during the school year on December 4, 2003. The date of that meeting did not meet the requirement that the first meeting be conducted no later than October 1. In addition, the Team determined that meetings were not being held each grading period.

FOLLOW-UP REVIEW

COMPLIANCE. The LSIC held a meeting in March 2004. The LSIC organized for the 2004-05 school year in a meeting on September 22, 2004, and has met quarterly as required.

Note: This area is no longer checked per House Bill 308 passed November 16, 2004.

- 7.7.11. Certificate of proficiency. A certificate of proficiency is issued to each graduate. (Policy 2510)**

Certificates of Proficiency were not provided to students upon graduation for the 2002-2003 school year.

FOLLOW-UP REVIEW

COMPLIANCE. Certificates of Proficiency were issued to the Class of 2004.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1.8. Library/educational technology access and technology application.** Based on student interviews, a review of the library facility and available resources, the Team determined that the library was not readily accessible or fully utilized as an instructional resource. The Team recommended that staff increase efforts to improve student access to the library and update available resource materials.

FOLLOW-UP REVIEW

RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWED.

7.2.2. Counseling services. The Team determined through student interviews that counseling services should be expanded, particularly in Grades 11-12. The Team recommended that efforts be made to increase student counseling services in reference to post-secondary education opportunities. The Team also recommended that an adult mentor program be considered to provide more one-on-one personal advisement for students. Students who are at risk should be provided particular attention.

FOLLOW-UP REVIEW

RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWED.

7.11.2. Preventive discipline, student involvement, and character education. Some students interviewed indicated that they felt little attachment to the school, a lack of empowerment and freedom with little ownership of the school community, little voice in decisions that impact them, and that they were not listened to or respected. The Team recommended that the administration and Faculty Senate, along with the Student Council, explore student-centered social activities and after-school, community-based social events.

Increased recognition of student participation in school activities was needed. In addition, the Team recommended that the faculty review the Positive Behavior Support Program to address the students' concerns for respect and fairness.

FOLLOW-UP REVIEW

RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWED.

BUILDING CAPACITY TO CORRECT DEFICIENCIES

- 17.1. Capacity building is a process for targeting resources strategically to improve the teaching and learning process. School and county Unified Improvement Plan development is intended, in part, to provide mechanisms to target resources strategically to the teaching and learning process to improve student, school, and school system performance.**

The Team determined that Calhoun County Middle/High School and Calhoun County have the capacity to correct the noncompliances listed in the report.

FOLLOW-UP CONCLUSION

All noncompliances listed in the school report had been corrected.

SCHOOL SYSTEM APPROVAL AND SCHOOL ACCREDITATION STATUS

The Office of Education Performance Audits recommends that the West Virginia Board of Education continue the Full Approval status of the Calhoun County School System and continue the Full Accreditation status of Calhoun County Middle/High School.