

# OFFICE OF EDUCATION PERFORMANCE AUDITS



## SECOND FOLLOW-UP EDUCATION PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR

**CLAY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**CLAY COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM**

**OCTOBER 2006**

**WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The West Virginia Office of Education Performance Audits conducted an Education Performance Audit of Clay Middle School in Clay County on November 18, 2004.

A Follow-up Education Performance Audit of Clay Middle School in Clay County was conducted October 18, 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."

A Second Follow-up Education Performance Audit of Clay Middle School in Clay County was conducted August 31, 2006. The purpose of the Second Follow-up was to verify correction of a finding that was discovered during the initial Follow-up Education Performance Audit conducted October 18, 2005.

## **SCHOOL PERFORMANCE**

Clay Middle School made gains in all subgroups for the 2005-2006 school year. While the special education (SE) subgroup did not meet the subgroup standard, this was the first year out. Clay Middle School and Clay County are urged to continue to implement high quality programs to ensure student mastery.

## **NEW ISSUE**

- 6.1.13. Instructional day.** Priority is given to teaching and learning, and classroom instructional time is protected from interruption. An instructional day is provided that includes a minimum of 315 minutes for kindergarten and grades 1 through 4; 330 minutes for grades 5 through 8; and 345 minutes for grades 9 through 12. The county board submits a school calendar with a minimum 180 instructional days. (W.Va. Code §18-5-45; Policy 2510)

Clay County and Clay Middle School had a system in place during the opening of the instructional term in which one grade attended school and the other two grades remained at home.

Friday, August 26 - All 8th grade students will be in attendance, 6th and 7th grade students will remain at home.

Monday, August 29 – All 7th grade students will be in attendance, 6th and 8th grade students will remain at home.

Tuesday, August 30 – All 6th grade students will be in attendance, 7th and 8th grade students will remain at home.

Wednesday, August 31 – All students will be in attendance.

This practice caused students to lose two instructional days from the school calendar. There has been no assertion that this practice was planned to use accrued instructional time. This exclusion of students on instructional days violated W.Va. Code §18-5-45 and Policy 2510, in addition to decreasing much needed instructional time for students. The Office of Education Performance Audits recommended that this practice be discontinued for the 2006 – 2007 school year for the middle school as well as other schools in which this instructional exclusion is occurring.

### **FOLLOW-UP REVIEW**

**COMPLIANCE.** All students began the school year on August 28, 2006. This was verified through administrator, teacher, and student interviews and by other written information submitted. This information included: Schedule posted in the local newspaper, teacher lesson plans, samples of student work, and breakfast and lunch counts from the first week of school.

**SCHOOL SYSTEM APPROVAL AND SCHOOL ACCREDITATION  
STATUS**

School	Accreditation Status	Education Performance Audit High Quality Standards	Annual Performance Measures Needing Improvement	Date Certain
16-301 Clay Middle	Full Accreditation			

The Office of Education Performance Audits recommends that the West Virginia Board of Education continue the **Full Approval** status of the Clay County School System and continue Clay Middle School's Full **Accreditation** status.