

OFFICE OF EDUCATION PERFORMANCE AUDITS



FINAL EDUCATION PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR

POCA MIDDLE SCHOOL

PUTNAM COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

JANUARY 2005

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION

The West Virginia Office of Education Performance Audits conducted an Education Performance Audit of Poca Middle School in Putnam County on January 22, 2004.

A Follow-up Education Performance Audit of Poca Middle School in Putnam County was conducted December 8, 2004. 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."

5.1.1. Achievement.

FOLLOW-UP REVIEW

NONCOMPLIANCE. Poca Middle School failed to attain adequate yearly progress (AYP) for 5.1.1 Achievement for the special education (SE) subgroup. Consequently, the West Virginia Board of Education issued the school Temporary Accreditation at its September 10, 2004 meeting.

EDUCATION PERFORMANCE AUDIT

NONCOMPLIANCE

7.1 Curriculum

7.1.10. Programs of study. Programs of study are provided in grades K-12 as listed in W.Va. 126CSR42 West Virginia Board of Education 2510 (hereinafter Policy 2510) for elementary, middle, and high school levels, including career clusters and majors and an opportunity to examine a system of career clusters in grades 5-8 and to select a career cluster to explore in grades 9 and 10. (Policy 2510; Policy 2520)

Choral music was not offered to Grade 6 students and only through an exploratory class for Grades 7 and 8.

FOLLOW-UP REVIEW

COMPLIANCE.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1.10. Programs of study.** The basic skills class did not focus on the test score strengths and weaknesses and included classes that have no relationship with the identified deficiencies.

The Team recommended that the basic skills class focus on the weaknesses identified on the Stanford-9 Achievement Test (SAT-9) results in reading/language arts and mathematics. The Team further recommended that the Curriculum Team develop a program emphasizing basic skills in reading/language arts and mathematics with the study skills teacher. The program needs to focus specifically on the identified deficiency skills in reading/language arts and mathematics. There should be collaboration between the basic skills teachers and regular teachers in basic skills.

FOLLOW-UP REVIEW

RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWED.

- 7.2.5. Data analysis.** A data analysis was not extensive that identified the areas of deficiencies: reading/language arts and mathematics.

The Team recommended that a structured data analysis be conducted to identify trend data that reveals strengths and weakness in reading/language arts and mathematics. Also, the Unified School Improvement Plan (USIP) needed to be modified to address the deficiencies identified in the data analysis. Particular attention needs to be paid to data from the special education subgroup.

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 Poca Middle School and Putnam County Schools have the capacity to improve the performance of the two subgroups which are deficient and correct the noncompliance.

FOLLOW-UP CONCLUSION

The Follow-Up Team reported that Poca Middle School had demonstrated improvement in achievement. In (2002-03) the school failed to meet adequate yearly progress (AYP) for the first year in two subgroups: Economically disadvantaged (SES) and special education (SE). The achievement of the SES subgroup met AYP for 2003-04; however, the SE subgroup failed to meet AYP for 2003-04. The Putnam County Director of Special Education should enlist the services of the RESA III Director of Special Education and Director of Professional Development to assist with achievement of special education students.

IDENTIFICATION OF RESOURCE NEEDS

A thorough and efficient system of schools requires the provision of an adequate level of appropriately managed resources. The West Virginia Board of Education adopted resource evaluation as a part of the accreditation and evaluation process. This process is intended to meaningfully evaluate the needs for facilities, personnel, curriculum, equipment and materials in each of the county's schools and how those impact program and student performance.

18.1. Facilities, equipment, and materials. Facilities and equipment specified in Policy 6200, Chapters 1 through 14, are available in all schools, classrooms, and other required areas. A determination will be made by using the Process for Improving Education (W.Va. Code §18-2E-5) whether any identified deficiencies adversely impact and impair the delivery of a high quality educational program if it is below the West Virginia Board of Education standards due to inadequacies or inappropriate management in the areas of facilities, equipment, and materials. The Education Performance Audit Teams shall utilize an assessment instrument for the evaluation of school facilities which generally follows the requirements of Policy 6200. Note: Corrective measures to be taken in response to any identified resource deficiency will of necessity be subject to the feasibility of modifying existing facilities, consideration of alternative methods of instructional delivery, availability of funding, and prioritization of educational needs through Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plans and the West Virginia School Building Authority. This policy does not change the authority, judgment, or priorities of the School Building Authority who is statutorily responsible for prioritizing "Need" for the purpose of funding school improvements or school construction in the State of West Virginia or the prerogative of the Legislature in providing resources. (Policy 6200 and *Tomblin v. Gainer*)

According to the items checked in the School Facilities Evaluation Checklist, the school was below standard in the following areas.

18.1.1. School location. The school was formerly Poca High School. It is an old building that has been remodeled with annexes added. The site is large and adequate.

18.1.2. Administrative and service facilities. The office area was small and did not accommodate both the principal and assistant principal.

18.1.10. Specialized instructional areas. The art area was smaller than recommended and lacked sinks, mechanical ventilation, kiln, and a black out area.

The music facility was smaller than the recommended size and located adjacent to quiet areas of the building.

18.1.11. Grades 6-12 science facilities. Science facilities were small and inadequately equipped, lacked gas, vacuum utilities, ventilation, emergency showers, and scales.

18.1.12. Grades 7-12 auditorium/stage. An auditorium was not available.

18.1.14. Food service. A teachers' dining area was not available. The kitchen was small and lacked adequate storage and lock area.

18.1.15 Health service units. A health service unit was not available.

FOLLOW-UP CONCLUSION

The facility resource needs remained as noted in the January 2004 Draft Report.

SCHOOL SYSTEM APPROVAL & SCHOOL ACCREDITATION STATUS

The Office of Education Performance Audits recommends that the West Virginia Board of Education continue the **Full Approval** status of the Putnam County School System and continue the **Temporary Accreditation** status for Poca Middle School.