

OFFICE OF EDUCATION PERFORMANCE AUDITS



FINAL EDUCATION PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR

BECKLEY-STRATTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

RALEIGH COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

OCTOBER 2004

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION

The West Virginia Office of Education Performance Audits conducted an Education Performance Audit of Beckley-Stratton Middle School in Raleigh County November 13, 2003.

A Follow-up Education Performance Audit of Beckley-Stratton Middle School was conducted September 8, 2004. The purpose of the follow-up review 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

7.1. Curriculum

- 7.1.11. Approved elective offerings. An elective offering must be based on approved West Virginia Board of Education content standards and objectives or have written goals and objectives that are approved by the county board. (Policy 2510)**

Electives/exploratory classes did not have goals and objectives. Therefore, they were not approved by the local county board of education.

FOLLOW-UP REVIEW

COMPLIANCE.

- 7.1.14. Multicultural education. Multicultural education is taught at all programmatic levels, K-4, 5-8, and 9-12 with an emphasis on prevention and zero tolerance for racial, sexual, religious/ethnic harassment or violence. (Policy 2421)**

The Team observed evidence that multicultural activities were being taught; however, a schoolwide multicultural plan was not in place.

FOLLOW-UP REVIEW

COMPLIANCE.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1.1. Achievement.

The Team recommended that planned interventions be implemented to ensure that adequate yearly progress (AYP) for the subgroups of black (B), low socioeconomic (SES), and special education (SE) students is met.

FOLLOW-UP REVIEW

RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWED.

7.1.6. Instructional strategies.

The Team recommended that teaching strategies be more varied and incorporate higher level thinking skills. The Team also recommended that further staff development be provided and implemented to help with various teaching strategies. The Team also recommended that student use of technology be increased to enhance instruction throughout all programs of study.

FOLLOW-UP REVIEW

RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWED.

EARLY DETECTION AND INTERVENTION

One of the most important elements in the Education Performance Audit process is monitoring student progress through early detection and intervention programs. The Team encourages county and school administrators and the Curriculum Team to examine the implementation of programs and strategies adopted to improve student learning and develop monitoring strategies to ensure that they are incorporated throughout the curriculum. The school should maintain the focus on improvement already in place, monitor results, and build on positive results. Raleigh County must continue to support Beckley Stratton Middle School to provide the assistance and monitoring needed to ensure student success.

Beckley-Stratton needs to vigorously continue and expand the improvement strategies already begun. School and county school district staff must concentrate efforts on the three subgroups that are below the standard in achievement.

TEAM SUMMARY

The school and county staff were continuing the improvement strategies that had already begun. They expanded these strategies through staff development with programs such as the Max Thompson Program. Achievement in the subgroups is improving with the Racial/Ethnicity Black (B) subgroup making adequate yearly progress (AYP) in the 2003-2004 testing. The Unified School Improvement Plan (USIP) was amended to emphasize inclusion of special education students in the general education program classrooms. The schedule has been restructured so students in groups not achieving AYP receive extended instructional time in mathematics, English, science, and social studies. The school staff, with support from the county, has begun student-tutoring programs before school and after school for students who need such programs.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 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 Raleigh County School District and issue **Full Accreditation** status to Beckley-Stratton Middle School.