



**Office of Education  
Performance Audits**

**SECOND FOLLOW-UP EDUCATION PERFORMANCE AUDIT PROGRESS  
REPORT**

**FOR**

**PICKENS ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL**

**RANDOLPH COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM**

**DECEMBER 2009**

**WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **INTRODUCTION**

An announced Education Performance Audit of Pickens Elementary/High School in Randolph County was conducted on February 25 – 28, 2008.

A Follow-up Education Performance Audit of Pickens Elementary/High School in Randolph County was conducted October 8, 2008. The purpose of the follow-up was to check progress of the school and county in correcting the findings identified during the original Education Performance Audit. The Team found that two high quality standards had not been corrected.

A Second Follow-up Education Performance Audit at Pickens Elementary/High School occurred October 2009 to check if the remaining noncompliances had been corrected.

## SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

The Second Follow-up Education Performance Audit Team checked identified noncompliances and recommendations to determine if they had been corrected. This section presents the initial Education Performance Audit Team's findings of noncompliances and recommendations, and the second follow-up review team's comments and status of compliance with the original citations.

### 75 RANDOLPH COUNTY

Suzan Hinzman, Superintendent

### 103 PICKENS ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL – Passed

Pamela Hewitt, Principal

Diane M. Betler, Lead Teacher

Grades K - 12

Enrollment 47 (2006-2007 2<sup>nd</sup> month enrollment report)

#### WESTEST 2006-2007

Group	Number Enrolled for FAY	Number Enrolled on Test Week	Number Tested	Participation Rate	Percent Proficient	Met Part. Rate Standard	Met Assessment Standard	Met Subgroup Standard
<b>Mathematics</b>								
All	23	23	22	95.65	86.36	Yes	Yes	✓
White	23	23	22	95.65	86.36	NA	NA	NA
Black	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hispanic	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Indian	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Asian	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Low SES	13	13	12	92.30	83.33	NA	NA	NA
Spec. Ed.	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
LEP	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Reading/Language Arts</b>								
All	23	23	22	95.65	95.45	Yes	Yes	✓
White	23	23	22	95.65	95.45	NA	NA	NA
Black	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hispanic	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Indian	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Asian	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Low SES	13	13	12	92.30	91.66	NA	NA	NA
Spec. Ed.	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
LEP	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

FAY -- Full Academic Year

\* -- 0 students in subgroup

\*\* -- Less than 10 students in subgroup

**Passed**  
**Graduation Rate = 100.0%**

**75 RANDOLPH COUNTY**  
 Suzan Hinzman, Superintendent  
**103 PICKENS ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL – Passed**  
 Diane M. Betler, Principal  
 Grades K - 12  
 Enrollment 48 (2007-2008 2<sup>nd</sup> month enrollment report)

**WESTEST 2007-2008**

Group	Number Enrolled for FAY	Number Enrolled on Test Week	Number Tested	Participation Rate	Percent Proficient	Met Part. Rate Standard	Met Assessment Standard	Met Subgroup Standard
<b>Mathematics</b>								
All	20	21	20	95.23	68.42	Yes	Yes	✓
White	20	21	20	95.23	68.42	NA	NA	NA
Black	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hispanic	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Indian	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Asian	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Low SES	10	10	9	90.00	88.88	NA	NA	NA
Spec. Ed.	3	3	2	66.66	100.00	NA	NA	NA
LEP	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Reading/Language Arts</b>								
All	20	21	20	95.23	94.73	Yes	Yes	✓
White	20	21	20	95.23	94.73	NA	NA	NA
Black	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hispanic	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Indian	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Asian	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Low SES	10	10	9	90.00	100.00	NA	NA	NA
Spec. Ed.	3	3	2	66.66	100.00	NA	NA	NA
LEP	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

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**Passed**  
**Graduation Rate = 100.0%**

**75 RANDOLPH COUNTY**  
 Suzan Hinzman, Superintendent  
**103 PICKENS ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL – Passed**  
 Diane M. Betler, Principal  
 Grades K - 12  
 Enrollment 43 (2008-2009 2<sup>nd</sup> month enrollment report)

**WESTEST 2008-2009**

Group	Number Enrolled for FAY	Number Enrolled on Test Week	Number Tested	Participation Rate	Percent Proficient	Met Part. Rate Standard	Met Assessment Standard	Met Subgroup Standard
<b>Mathematics</b>								
All	21	24	24	100.00	76.19	Yes	Yes	✓
White	21	24	24	100.00	76.19	NA	NA	NA
Black	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hispanic	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Indian	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Asian	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Low SES	14	16	16	100.00	78.57	NA	NA	NA
Spec. Ed.	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
LEP	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Reading/Language Arts</b>								
All	21	24	24	100.00	76.19	Yes	Yes	✓
White	21	24	24	100.00	76.19	NA	NA	NA
Black	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hispanic	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Indian	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Asian	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Low SES	14	16	16	100.00	71.42	NA	NA	NA
Spec. Ed.	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
LEP	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

FAY -- Full Academic Year

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\*\* -- Less than 10 students in subgroup

**Passed**  
**Graduation Rate = 100.0%**

## **ANNUAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR ACCOUNTABILITY**

### **Met Standard.**

Pickens Elementary/High School achieved Exemplary Accreditation status.

## **EDUCATION PERFORMANCE AUDIT**

### **HIGH QUALITY STANDARDS**

#### **Necessary to Improve Performance and Progress to Meet the Standard.**

#### **7.1. Curriculum**

- 7.1.9. Programs of study. Programs of study are provided in grades K-12 as listed in 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)**

Pickens Elementary/High School had a reported enrollment of 44 students in Grades K-12 with three full-time teachers and four half-time teachers. The “official” principal is the Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education located at the Randolph County Board of Education in Elkins. A “lead teacher” who teaches Grades 3, 4, and 5 serves as the school’s administrative leader. Many issues are inherent in a school with a low student enrollment, consequently, low staffing compounded by the school’s location in the county. It is not easily accessible, thereby, complicating providing students’ career-technical course opportunities and advanced placement (AP), honors, or college level courses offered in Elkins.

The school provides the required programs of study for the elementary and middle grades and the core courses are provided for the secondary students. With these conditions noted, the Team identified the following problematic issues regarding programs of study and curriculum.

1. The Kindergarten and Grades 1 and 2 are combined with one teacher; Grades 3, 4, and 5 are combined; Grades 6, 7, and 8 are combined; Grades 9 and 10 are combined; and Grades 11 and 12 are combined. The school’s schedule lists Career and Developmental Guidance Grades 9 -12 and Health Grades 6 – 10, indicating that four grade levels , Grades 9 – 12, are included

in developmental guidance and five grade levels participate in health at the same time.

The combination of grade levels impeded delivery of the programs of study and the West Virginia Content Standards and Objectives. (CSOs).

2. Fine arts courses were not available.
3. Career/technical courses were not available. The school did not have the resources to offer career clusters.
4. Advanced placement (AP) and honors courses were not available.
5. A Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) program was not available and students in the area do not have any opportunity through other agencies or programs for Pre-K and early intervention.
6. Driver Education was not offered at the school.

#### FOLLOW-UP REVIEW

The school is now served by a certified principal.

1. The multiple grade combinations still existed.
2. Music is taught in Grades 6-12 and theatre is taught.
3. Students do not attend the Career/Technical in Elkins. Transporting students to Elkins is not a viable solution.
4. AP courses were available through Virtual School. No students were taking AP courses first semester.
5. A Pre-K program was not available.
6. Driver Education was not offered on site.

#### SECOND FOLLOW-UP REVIEW

##### **PROGRESSING.**

1. **The same split-grade configuration and staffing pattern existed with the addition of a Title I teacher and a special education teacher.**
2. **Music was being taught in Grades 6-12. Staff reported that there was no student interest in dance.**
3. **The school offered Accounting, Introduction to Business, and Family and Consumer Science. The accounting class was interactive with the accounting class at Elkins Career Center.**
4. **No students were interested in advanced placement (AP) classes, which were available through Virtual School.**
5. **A Pre-K class was not offered.**
6. **Driver education will be taught this year.**

## 7.6. Personnel

### **7.6.2. Licensure. Professional educators and other professional employees required to be licensed under West Virginia Board of Education policy are licensed for their assignments including employees engaged in extracurricular activities. (W.Va. Code §18A-3-2; Policy 5202)**

1. The “official” principal was the Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education. According to the findings from the Randolph County Education Audit, this individual was assigned the responsibility without the required procedures of West Virginia Code and West Virginia Board of Education policies.

The Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education reportedly has the following responsibilities: Elementary Education; Director of Federal Programs; Principal, Pickens Elementary/High School; and personnel official (as indicated in the county level audit. It would be extremely difficult to serve as principal of this school with the numerous responsibilities associated with all the reported jobs. When asked about the presence of the principal, staff indicated that she was at the school about two times. Essentially, the Lead Teacher performs the administrative functions. Randolph County must follow school law and employ a principal at this school.

2. According to interviews, the physical education teacher taught Grades 6, 7, and 8 music. The teacher was not certified to teach music.
3. The teacher who taught yearbook was not certified to teach this class.

#### FOLLOW-UP REVIEW

#### NONCOMPLIANCE.

One teacher did not have the appropriate license for one class he was teaching.

#### SECOND FOLLOW-UP REVIEW

#### COMPLIANCE.

**The educator who did not have appropriate licensure was certified.**



## **SUMMARY**

Equitable curricular opportunities is an area that must be addressed by Randolph County. Transporting students to Elkins for career/technical and Advanced Placement (AP) courses has not been a viable solution for meeting the needs of students.

## **SECOND FOLLOW-UP SUMMARY**

**More students need to be encouraged to take advanced placement (AP) classes and participate in more Virtual School classes.**

## **SCHOOL ACCREDITATION STATUS**

The Office of Education Performance Audits recommends that the West Virginia Board of Education continue Pickens Elementary/High School's Exemplary Accreditation status.