

OFFICE OF EDUCATION PERFORMANCE AUDITS



FINAL EDUCATION PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR

TALCOTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SUMMERS COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

APRIL 2005

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

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INTRODUCTION

The West Virginia Office of Education Performance Audits conducted an Education Performance Audit of Talcott Elementary School in Summers County on May 4, 2004.

A Follow-up Education Performance Audit of Talcott Elementary School in Summers County was conducted March 22, 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 Talcott Elementary 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, (B) black 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. Talcott Elementary School and Summers 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 5.1.1. Achievement.

FOLLOW-UP REVIEW

COMPLIANCE. Talcott Elementary School achieved adequate yearly progress (AYP).

7.10. Professional Development and Evaluation

7.10.1. Evaluation. The county board adopts and implements an evaluation policy for professional and service personnel that is in accordance with W.Va. Code, West Virginia Board of Education policy, and county policy. (W.Va. Code §18A-2-12; Policy 5310; Policy 5314)

Classroom observations were conducted; however, the official observation form was not used and the date of the post observation conference could not be verified. Notes were made on a legal pad and had not been transferred to the form; therefore, signatures and dates were not available.

FOLLOW-UP REVIEW

COMPLIANCE. A review of the personnel evaluations showed that all evaluations were being done on schedule and the appropriate forms were being used and signed and dated by the principal and employees.

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 Talcott Elementary School and Summers County have the capacity to correct the noncompliances listed in the report.

FOLLOW-UP CONCLUSION

All noncompliances listed in the report had been corrected.

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 site did not allow for future expansion and the drive to the school from the highway was on a steep incline. Solid surface parking for staff and visitors parking was limited and the children had to cross the parking area and driveway to reach the playground.
- 18.1.2. Administrative and service facilities.** A reception/waiting area was not available. The administrative area afforded little privacy.
- 18.1.3. Teachers' workroom.** The teachers' work area was inadequate.
- 18.1.7. K classrooms.** A carpeted area was not available in the Kindergarten room.
- 18.1.8. Grades 1-12 classrooms.** Storage was inadequate throughout the building.
- 18.1.10. Specialized instructional areas.** An art facility was not available and the music facility was inadequate in size
- 18.1.14. Food service.** Space in the food service area was inadequate.

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

FOLLOW-UP CONCLUSION

The facilities, equipment, and materials resource needs remained the same with the exception of 18.1.7. A carpeted area in the Kindergarten room had been provided.

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 Summers County School System and continue the Full Accreditation status of Talcott Elementary School.