

OFFICE OF EDUCATION PERFORMANCE AUDITS



FINAL EDUCATION PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR

HINTON AREA 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 Hinton Area Elementary School in Summers County on May 4, 2004.

A Follow-up Education Performance Audit of Hinton Area 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 Hinton Area Elementary School did not attain adequate yearly progress (AYP) in one or more subgroups designated in 5.1.1. Achievement: (SES) economically disadvantaged. 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. Hinton Area 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. Hinton Area Elementary School achieved adequate yearly progress (AYP).

7.1. Curriculum

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)

While there was evidence of some multicultural education activities, a schoolwide plan had not been developed and implemented.

FOLLOW-UP REVIEW

COMPLIANCE. A schoolwide multicultural plan has been developed and was being implemented.

7.7. Administrative Practices and School Community Relations

7.7.6. **Local school improvement council, faculty senate, and curriculum team.** A local school improvement council, faculty senate, and curriculum team are established, functioning, and meet the statutory requirements. (W.Va. Code §§18-5A-2, 18-5-14, 18-5A-5, & 18-5A-6; Policy 2510; Policy 5500.03)

The Local School Improvement Council (LSIC) did not meet the timeline of the first meeting by October 1, 2003 and the LSIC had only two parents serving as members. W.Va. Code §18-5A-2 requires that three parents be members of the LSIC.

FOLLOW-UP REVIEW

COMPLIANCE. The Local School Improvement Council (LSIC) was organized with the appropriate membership elected by the various school groups and held its initial meeting on September 28, 2004. The LSIC had seven meetings scheduled for the 2004-2005 school year.

Note: This standard is no longer reviewed per House Bill 308 enacted by the West Virginia Legislature.

RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1.3. High expectations. Some teachers indicated that the reason for the low performance on the statewide assessment was because the students were not motivated and the home did not necessarily value education. The Team recommended that the beliefs, mission statement, and goals of the school be revisited and revised to ensure that there is a belief that all students can learn.

FOLLOW-UP REVIEW

RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWED.

7.7.3. Business/Community Partnerships. The school had business partners; however, they were not functioning. The Team recommended that the business partnerships be renewed.

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

FOLLOW-UP CONCLUSION

All noncompliances listed in the education performance audit report have 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 have adequate size or area for future expansion. Automobile access to the school was difficult with narrow streets and limited parking. The playground area was inadequate in size.
- 18.1.2. Administrative and service facilities.** Work space in the administrative area was limited.
- 18.1.3. Teachers' workroom.** The teachers' workroom was inadequate in size.
- 18.1.4. Counselor's office.** The counselor's office did not have adequate space.
- 18.1.5. Library/media and technology center.** The library did not have appropriate space and newspapers, periodicals, and pamphlets were limited.
- 18.1.7. K classrooms.** Kindergarten classrooms did not have a sink with hot and cold water, shelving and storage were limited, and a carpeted area was not available.

- 18.1.8. Grades 1-12 classrooms.** Storage was inadequate in all classrooms.
- 18.1.10. Specialized instructional areas.** Art and music facilities were not available.
- 18.1.14. Food service.** A teachers' dining area was not available, food and non-food storage was inadequate, and a locker/dressing room was not available.
- 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 18.1.10. The music program had been moved into a regular classroom.

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 Hinton Area Elementary School.