

MEMORANDUM

To: Eric Witherspoon, Superintendent
From: Judith Levinson, Director Research, Evaluation and Assessment
Marilyn Madden, Assistant Superintendent/Principal
Date: February 8, 2007
Subject: Final Report on the 2005-06 Test Prep Course

Background

In 2005-06 the Student Services Department implemented a Test Preparation program in conjunction with Kaplan Learning Systems. The program was aimed at students in regular level classes who at the end of 3 semesters had a grade point average of a 2.0 and PLAN sub-test scores between a 13-16. Based on their PLAN scores, these students were not "on track" to meet/exceed standards on the PSAE. A total of 73 students were enrolled in the program. Six students dropped the Test Prep course prior to the start of the course due to parent request or leaving the district. The Test Preparation course addressed:

Goal 1: Student Achievement and Performance - Improve student achievement, particularly for students who are not yet meeting standards.

Strategies:

- *Design and conduct test preparation for PSAE (ACT and WorkKeys) for students who are not "on track" to meet or exceed standards based on an analysis of test results and other academic indicators.*
- *Provide a second semester test prep class for juniors not "on track" to meet standards*
- *Teachers in all departments will incorporate test preparation lessons into classes for juniors*

Anticipated Outcomes:

- *Improve the PSAE/ACT performance of students in Test Prep program so that 50% of the students exceed predicted outcome based on PLAN scores.*

In June 2006 we presented a preliminary report on the performance of students who were enrolled in the newly implemented Test Prep course. The report provided data on the performance of students on the ACT portion of the Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE). The total PSAE score for reading and math is a combination of the results of the ACT and WorkKeys tests. The report indicated that a little over 60 percent of students improved their score by 2 or more points in reading and math from the PLAN test taken in 2004 to the ACT taken in spring of 2006. The report also indicated that Black and White students showed greater gains than the typical gain in reading and math shown by ETHS Black and White students, respectively. The report did not provide data on students' performance on the PSAE as a whole because PSAE scores were not yet available in June.

Table 2a. Scale Scores of Students with a Combined PSAE Math Performance Level Below Standards

Scale Score	No. of Students	% of Students
155	3	13.0%
154	0	0%
153	2	8.7%
152	2	8.7%
151	1	4.3%
150	3	13.0%
145-149	8	34.8%
140-144	4	17.4%
Below 140	0	0%
Total	23	99.9%

Finally, tables 4a and 4b provide more detailed test information for the students who had PSAE scores below standards. The tables show both the ACT score and WorkKeys score for each PSAE score in reading or math. The scale for ACT scores ranges from 1 to 36. The scale for WorkKeys scores ranges from 3 to 7. Each ACT score or WorkKeys score relates directly to the number of items that students got correct. These tables reveal the different score combinations that can occur and their relationship to the total PSAE score. Typically, students pass if they receive a 19 on the ACT and a 5 on the WorkKeys. However, table 4a shows one student (PSAE score of 151) who had an ACT math score of 20 and but did not pass the PSAE because of his WorkKeys score of 4. In another case, table 4b shows a student with a PSAE score of 154 (very close to the passing score of 156). Although this student's ACT reading score was only 13, the student must have had a very high "5" WorkKeys math score.

Table 4a. Students with a PSAE Math Performance Level of Below Standards – PSAE/ACT Score versus WorkKeys Score

Combined Math Scale Score	ACT Math Score	WorkKeys Math Score
155	18	5
155	17	5
155	17	5
153	19	4
153	18	5
152	19	4
152	18	4
151	20	3
150	16	5
150	16	5
150	15	5
148	17	4
148	16	4
147	18	3
147	15	4
147	15	4
146	16	4
146	15	4
146	15	4
144	15	4
143	16	3
140	16	3
140	15	3

Table 4b. Students with a PSAE Reading Performance Level of Below Standards – PSAE/ACT Score versus WorkKeys Score

Combined Reading Scale Score	ACT Reading Score	WorkKeys Reading Score
154	13	5
153	15	5
152	19	4
152	18	4
152	18	4
152	18	4
152	18	4
151	18	4
	18	4
149	18	4
149	17	4
147		4
147	15	4
147	15	4
147	13	
146	16	4
144	18	3
143	15	4
	14	4
143	12	4
139	14	3
139		4
138	13	3
138	13	3
138	12	
137	13	3

Implications

The Test Prep course clearly had an impact on students' ACT scores. Overall, 66 percent or more of students gained two or more points. This gain was particularly noteworthy for Black students where on average, the gain in past years has been a little over one point from PLAN to ACT. Although students