

SOS Update Report

Created for the District 202 Board of Education

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To: Dr. Eric Witherspoon

From: Marilyn Madden and David Wartowski

SOS Steering Committee. Representatives from the entire ETHS community, including students, parents, staff, teachers, and administration, have met regularly throughout the year to recommend decisions regarding the continual improvement of SOS. This committee identified the following areas of focus for improvement for next year: Support/Strategies for Teachers, Consequences/Rewards, Flexibility, and Response to Ineffective Supports. The framework for SOS in the fall of 2008 is being presented via the all staff meeting on Wednesday, May 28th, and will continue to be refined through the rest of the year and into the summer.

Survey Results. Throughout the year, we have been listening to the ETHS community to inform our decisions. A part of this listening included surveys this year to students, faculty, parents and the safety staff. Overall, results were encouraging and supportive of the initiative, yet provided ideas for improving the system. A description of these survey results follows this report.

Enrollment for Support. The number of students enrolled in AM support per cycle generally increased during the first semester and then generally decreased during the second semester. Over the course of the year, an average of 1366 students were enrolled each cycle. Of the 2,790 students enrolled at ETHS, 2,384 of them (85%) were enrolled in AM support at some point over the year, which reflects the need for intervention.

AM Support Attendance. Over 2000 students have received additional help this year thanks to AM support. We have received very good reports both from students and teachers regarding the success of AM support for those that attend. Yet over the course of the school year, we have seen daily attendance drop by 15%. As the culture of the school changes, our challenge next year will be to strengthen the system of supports by identifying additional interventions that are successful for more and more students.

Homework Center Attendance. Attendance has been increasing. Currently about 20-25 students make use of the Homework Center each day, in part due to the deans' use of HC as a means to clear MITs. Mr. Cadogan reports that students are focused and making good use of the time. Minimally two tutors are there each day. Mr. Cadogan encourages you to come by and talk to the students and see how the Homework Center functions!

Study Center Attendance. Each of the core department study centers has seen a steady increase in attendance over the course of the year. The Math Department continues to have the highest attendance, currently with about 85 students per day since enforcing that students show their ID. Science has also seen strong growth, growing three-fold since hiring a study center supervisor, now with about 65 students each day. English/History and World Language Centers each have an average of 45 and 15 students per day, respectively. Success in the Study Centers has been evident. In the science center, an entire class began visiting regularly and saw their test grades go up. "Did you make this test easier," they asked the teacher. "No," she told them, "Do you think it might have something to do with your work in the study center three times a week?" One student reported, "I got a 100% on a test for the very first time."

Timeline for Decision Making. The SOS Steering Committee had open forums for staff discussion on May 8th and May 22nd. The committee met May 1st, May 15th, and will meet again May 27th for a retreat. Upcoming

