

Sandwich Secondary School - School Improvement Plan (2009-2010)



Goal: Literacy Numeracy Credit Accumulation Other

Our goal is to improve the success rate of our First Time Eligible Students above 93% and Previously Eligible Students above 50% on the 2010 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test.

Measures of Progress:

Over the past 5 years (2005-2009), our First Time Eligible Students have scored between 92% and 93% on the OSSLT. During this same period, our Previously Eligible Students have scored between 86% (2005) and 46% (2009) on the OSSLT.

Data-Based Evidence of Need:

In the area of Reading Skills, our students have performed consistently well in the areas of: Making Inferences and Making Connections (91-93%). In the area of Explicit Understanding our student scores have fluctuated between 87% and 91%.

In the area of Writing Skills, our students scored between 89% and 91% in the following skill areas: Developing the Main Ideas, Organization of Thought and Topic Development. Successful use of Writing Conventions has fluctuated between 87% and 92%.

Hypotheses: An analysis of the data indicates that the following may be factor(s) contributing to achievement:

Our data indicate that a school-wide reading and writing program with specific instruction in the area of explicit understanding will improve our First Time and Previously Eligible Student scores on the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test.

Strategies	Responsibilities	Timelines	Evidence of Implementation	Communication Plan
1. Introduce ERBAS – Silent Reading Program.	School Administration and staff.	November 2009 to June 2010	Set aside 20 minutes per week for staff and students to read materials of their interest or choice (ie. comic books, magazines, journals, graphic novels, novels etc.)	Introduce ERBAS Reading Program at Department Head, Staff and School Council Meetings.

<p>2. Introduce Paragraph Writing Program (Informational, Instructional, Opinion, Summary)</p>	<p>Think Literacy Team Teacher, English and Social Science Teachers</p>	<p>November 2009 to June 2010</p>	<p>Staff are responsible for ensuring that students write at least 1 paragraph per week.</p>	<p>Introduce Paragraph Writing Program at Department Head, Staff and School Council Meetings.</p>
<p>3. Purchase Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test Workbook for all Gr. 10 Applied students.</p>	<p>English Teachers</p>	<p>November 2009 to April 2010</p>	<p>English Department Head will select articles and activities for students to complete with their teachers. Students can also complete these workbook activities at home.</p>	<p>Introduce OSSLT Test Workbook at Department Head, Staff and School Council Meetings.</p>
<p>4. We may need to introduce the OSSLC Course for students who were unsuccessful for the 2nd time. Students can also complete the OSSLC Course in Summer School.</p>	<p>School Administration Guidance Counselors English DH</p>	<p>February 2010</p>	<p>We will need to identify returning students who were unsuccessful on the OSSLT for the 2nd time.</p>	<p>Guidance Counselors to meet with students who qualify and possibly parents/guardians.</p>
<p>5. Teach and model Explicit Understanding during classroom instruction.</p>	<p>Think Literacy Team Teachers Department Heads Classroom Teachers</p>	<p>February 2010</p>	<p><u>Instructional Strategies:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the 5 W, 1H strategy. • Model what you expect from students. • Use Think aloud strategies. • Use Read aloud strategies. • Continuously monitor student progress. • Explain Key Terms and Concepts. 	<p>Share instructional strategies at Department Head and Staff Meetings.</p>

<p>6. Distribute two new Ministry Resources to all English Teachers. These resources were created to support boys' literacy achievement.</p>	<p>School Administration English Department Head</p>	<p>December 2010</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use authentic Learning Tasks. <p><u>Ministry Resources:</u> <i>Me Read? And How!</i></p> <p><i>Supports for Boys' Literacy CD-ROM</i></p>	<p>English Department Head to distribute resources to teachers and review at a Departmental Meeting.</p>
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Resources Required:

- Education For All, Report of the Expert Panel on Literacy and Numeracy Instruction for Students With Special Education Needs (2005), Ontario Ministry of Education
- The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test Workbook 2nd Edition (2008), Treehouse Press Inc.
- Summary of Results and Strategies for Teachers (2008-2009), Education Quality and Accountability Office
- Me Read? And How! (2009), Ontario Ministry of Education.
- Supports for Boys' Literacy CD ROM (2009), Ontario Ministry of Education.

Professional Learning Needs:

- Our Think Literacy Team Teacher will take the lead in assisting classroom teachers in their implementation of strategies for improving literacy, particularly the development of the various forms of paragraphs (Informational, Instructional, Opinion, Summary).
- Our Think Literacy Team Teacher and Department Heads will assist staff with Explicit Instruction techniques.