

STERLING



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

Each year, the School Improvement Council (SIC) prepares the School Report to the Community. This document highlights the accomplishments of our school in implementing our 5-year Strategic Plan for School Improvement and our plans for the future.

Sterling's School Improvement Council (SIC) has been working hard this year to help shape the direction of Sterling. The following report outlines much of what has been done this year and summarizes much of what has been accomplished by the students and faculty of Sterling as well.

Sterling has had a wonderful year. We started off with a special visit from Subway's Jared Fogle as part of the Subway Challenge and to promote our CATCH and Culinary Creations food program. The fall brought in a record amount of needed funds through a great PTA Boosterthon fundraiser and the

awarding of a \$39,474 grant from State Farm to support safer walking and biking to school and in the community.

We have had excellent parent participation and inclusiveness in the school through a variety of PTA meeting formats as well as monthly Lunch and Learns from our guidance department and media center. We have also begun parent orientations for the next grade level well before the end of the year to more fully prepare parents for the school year to come.

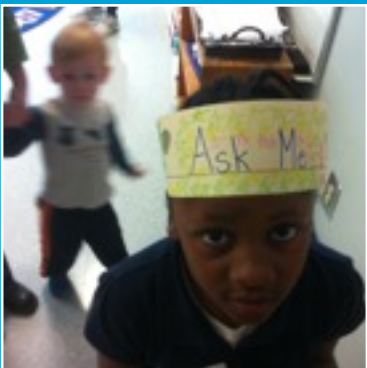
Lastly, we have continued to improve the instructional program at Sterling. Every grade level and area has

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Inclusiveness & Experiential Learning	2
Strategic Plan Summary	3
Test Scores 2012-2013	5
Looking Forward 2013-2014	5
Accomplishments	6
School Improvement Members	6

"Where the Uncommon is Common."

PARENT & STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



Experiential Learning

Throughout the school year, students in all grade levels worked to apply what they learned. Students analyzed historical artifacts, presented projects or conducted field studies in the community.

reworked some aspect of it's curriculum to better our students. We have focused on building rich experiences that will make learning more meaningful and memorable.

As you look through our accomplishments, please review the two key areas from which the School Improvement Council evaluates our initiatives: **inclusiveness** and **experiential learning**.

Inclusiveness

Through this objective, the school seeks to create an environment in which students, teachers, parents and community members feel accepted and a part of the school. Inclusiveness values these roles and appreciates and values the differences that each individual brings in fulfilling his or her respective role.

Characteristics of inclusiveness identified through our brainstorming include:

- Tolerance
- Acceptance
- Engagement
- Collaboration

Experiential Learning

•School pride **Experiential**

Learning:

Through this objective, the school seeks to encourage students and teachers to engage in the

learning process in a manner that allows for learning from and through failure, risk taking and trial and error.

Experiential Learning is consistent with the currently used approach of inquiry-based learning, as many of the characteristics are seen in our teaching. However, there is a desire to see this approach expanded, encouraged, and emphasized.

Characteristics of experiential learning identified include:

- Value failure
- Trial and error
- Continuous improvement
- Create relationships of trust
 - Safe and nurturing environment
 - Support from peers
 - Administration leadership

BINGO Night: This great family event brings the entire school together and raises funds for classroom supplies and technology.



School Strategic Plan 2012-2013

Progress UPDATE

GOAL Area I: Raising the Academic Challenge through 2012-13.

The targets in the circle represent a 5% gain from the 2011-2012 scores for all Sterling program students taking PASS.

Goal Area I encompasses performance goals for Reading, Writing and Math. These performance targets are based on the prior year's PASS scores and are focused on areas needing improvement. Within the plan found in this document, interim performance goals further target additional areas of improvement. You may notice in this goal area that Sterling program is designated rather than Sterling School. Sterling program indicates elementary students in grades 3rd-5th not in the Charles Townes Center. This designation is due to the extremely high number of Charles Townes students who score exemplary in English Language Arts, Writing and Math.

Strategies:

✓ Develop periodic school-wide enrichment and extensions for all students based on individual student interests and aptitude.

- 4K-5th Grade developed and implemented cross grade level enrichment days in the fall and spring. Students chose sessions based on interest rather than grade or age level.

✓ Develop and implement extensions and/or acceleration for identified individual students based on strengths in subject or concept, regardless of grade.

- Students from across all grade levels and both programs have participated in direct extensions by our Enrichment Facilitator or other staff members.

✓ Rewrite & modify our current instructional program & assessments: specifically Middle School and Math.

- The middle school curriculum was rewritten and is in its first draft. The Charles Townes Center math scope and sequence has been rewritten and is being implemented. Each grade level in the Sterling Program continues to develop and review the program of study for the Sterling Elementary Program. Sterling teachers at each grade level have met with Dr. Sparkman (District Support) and Ms. Foulkes (Sterling's Instructional Coach) to refine and rewrite these units.

The development of school-wide and individual enrichment and acceleration addresses expanding the experiential nature and focus of our school at the individual level. Inclusiveness will also be addressed by considering individual student interests and addressing them directly. Teachers and administrators will continue to refine, rewrite and expand the inquiry-based units of the Sterling Program and course selections at the middle school level.

Experiential Learning

The school seeks to encourage students and teachers to engage in the learning process in a manner that allows for learning from and through failure, risk taking and trial and error.

This may be synonymous with the current approach of inquiry based learning, as many of the characteristics are seen in current teaching. However, there is a desire to see this encouraged and emphasized.

Inclusiveness

The school seeks to create an environment in which students, teachers, parents and community members feel accepted and part of the school. This focus seeks to value these roles and to appreciate and value the differences that each individual brings in fulfilling his or her role.

WRITING TARGET

**77% Met &
Exemplary**

ELA TARGET

**76% Met &
Exemplary
Mean Pass Score from
644 to 650**

MATH TARGET

**81% Met &
Exemplary
Mean Pass Score
from 642 to 648**

Goal Area 2: Ensure Quality Personnel in All Positions

PERFORMANCE GOAL: All personnel will be highly qualified and specialized through 2012-13.

Goal Area 2 addresses the need for quality staff. The Sterling School vision requires extensive training for teachers and staff members. All teachers in both programs have or will have Gifted and Talented certification and every staff member will receive extensive diversity training. This area defines the school-wide professional development for the year as well.

Strategies:

- ★ **Develop electronic student portfolios.**
 - Middle School is digitizing conferencing process using Moodle.
- ★ **Redevelop middle school courses and intermediate elementary to middle math curriculum.**
 - Curriculum rewrite is complete and Program of Study is in its first draft.
 - CTC Math has been rewritten and is being implemented. Monthly support meetings are being held.
- ★ **Develop and implement a school-wide enrichment program.**
 - Completed successfully.
- ★ **Implement and support the CATCH program.**
 - Monthly activities are presented to teachers for classroom use.
- ★ **Continue diversity training.**
 - Poverty tour and seminar completed in the fall.
- ★ **Continue intra-staff sharing of best practices.**
 - Completed fall intra-staff sharing of best practices
 - Spring not scheduled yet
- ★ **Continue cross-grade and cross-program observations by teachers.**
 - Winter intra-grade observations scheduled

Goal Area 3: Provide a School Environment Supportive of Learning

PERFORMANCE GOAL: Maintain or exceed 85% approval rating from students, parents and teachers on the State Report Card Survey.

Goal Area 3 addresses school climate. This goal area is very important at Sterling School and is directly aligned with the focus of inclusiveness. Sterling School is a diverse school covering a wide range of ages and student needs. Sterling School plays a critical role in the local community. The strategies for meeting and maintaining this goal are designed to identify and meet the needs of this diverse population.

Strategies:

- ★ **Develop and implement parent workshops and orientations to address student developmental and academic needs.**
 - Monthly Lunch and Learns scheduled through guidance and the media center.
- ★ **Create a new family/student inclusion/orientation program.**
 - All grade level are hosting "Roll-up" Meetings with parents for next year in the spring to provide information for the coming year before the summer.
- ★ **Redevelop parent-teacher conferencing to compliment the developing student portfolio.**
 - Conferences have been held. We continue to work on supporting information that can better help parents understand student levels and performance.

2012-2013 Conferencing Schedule

4-Year Old Kindergarten	5-Year Old Kindergarten	1 st Grade	2 nd Grade	3 rd Grade	4 th Grade	5 th Grade	Middle School
October: • Introduce Portfolios • Share work samples • Skill Reports May • Celebrate accomplishment • Portfolio Review • Provide summer programming and 5K expectations	October: • Introduce Portfolios • Share work samples • Skill Reports May • Student Led • Portfolio Review • Provide summer programming and 1 st Grade expectations	October: • Introduce Portfolios • Share work samples • Skill Reports & Assessments • AMS Web May • Student Led	October: • Introduce Portfolios • Share work samples • Skill Reports & Assessments • AMS Web • Report Card • MAP Scores	November • Report Card • Student Involved • Work samples • Math Notebooks • S&E Checklist • MAP Scores May • Student led review	November • Report Card • Student Involved • Work sample • Math Notebooks • S&E Checklist • Use focus sheet • MAP Scores	November • Report Card • Student Involved • Work sample • Math Notebooks • S&E Checklist • Use focus sheet for concerns • MAP Scores April • Student led • Examples of work • Student & teacher meet to prepare	November • Report Card • Student Involved • Work sample • Math Notebooks • S&E Checklist • Use focus sheet for concerns • MAP Scores • Resume

PASS Scores: Charles Townes Center *Percent Exemplary 2009-2012*

CTC	Writing 2009	Writing 2010	Writing 2011	Writing 2012	ELA 2009	ELA 2010	ELA 2011	ELA 2012	Math 2009	Math 2010	Math 2011	Math 2012	Sci 2009	Sci 2010	Sci 2011	Sci 2012	SS 2009	SS 2010	SS 2011	SS 2012
3rd	99%	100%			100%	100%	100%	100%	96%	97%	100%	100%	95%	92%	97%	95%	100%	100%	100%	100%
4th	93%	100%			100%	97%	96%	100%	99%	99%	100%	100%	88%	88%	88%	81%	99%	100%	96%	100%
5th	96%	100%	99%	96%	96%	97%	96%	99%	92%	95%	99%	97%	84%	76%	100%	100%	100%	89%	100%	97%
6th	84%	96%			100%	97%	97%	100%	96%	87%	93%	100%	86%	97%	89%	92%	89%	97%	89%	92%
7th	97%	93%			90%	99%	99%	97%	99%	97%	97%	97%	90%	99%	97%	93%	93%	97%	100%	95%
8th	94%	95%	92%	93%	93%	95%	99%	100%	95%	95%	94%	92%	96%	100%	100%	100%	96%	90%	94%	97%

3RD GRADE STERLING PROGRAM PASS SCORES 2011-2012

	2011 ELA	2012 ELA	2011 Math	2012 Math	2011 Science	2012 Science	2011 Social Studies	2012 Social Studies
Exemplary	62%	58%	59%	42%	36%	12%	50%	55%
Met	10%	17%	14%	28%	36%	50%	22%	30%
Not Met	28%	25%	28%	31%	27%	38%	28%	15%

4TH GRADE STERLING PROGRAM PASS SCORES 2011-2012

	2011 ELA	2012 ELA	2011 Math	2012 Math	2011 Science	2012 Science	2011 Social Studies	2012 Social Studies
Exemplary	48%	43%	67%	45%	22%	15%	44%	36%
Met	37%	28%	26%	32%	48%	60%	41%	40%
Not Met	15%	30%	7%	23%	30%	25%	15%	23%

5TH GRADE STERLING PROGRAM PASS SCORES 2012

	2012 ELA	2012 Math	2012 Science	2012 Social Studies
Exemplary	37%	34%	38%	32%
Met	32%	49%	38%	47%
Not Met	31%	17%	25%	21%

Test Scores:

The PASS scores reported on the South Carolina Department of Education Report Card show combined scores of both programs. As a School Improvement Council, we look at the scores by program to ensure quality achievement for both programs in the school.

We continue to watch for trends and build consistency across all areas tested. We also want to see continued student improvement in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. Sterling elementary students made some positive gains as well as showed some areas that still need improvement. The Sterling Program has so few students per grade level, we see swings in percentages based on just a few students.

Charles Townes students have continued to post a high percentage of Exemplary scores. This year showed many historical highs. These levels of achievement are the highest in South Carolina.

Looking Forward: Whats Next 2013-2014

- **Assessment:** Develop curriculum continuums, portfolios and other assessment strategies to better evaluate and communicate student growth and progress.
- **Balanced Literacy:** Finding better ways to meaningfully engage students in reading.
- **Curriculum Development:** Common Core Integration into our Instructional Unit.
- **Differentiation:** Expand opportunities for remediation, enrichment, extension and acceleration of curriculum to meet student needs.
- **CATCH:** Continue to integrate health and wellness.

State Farm awarded Upstate Forever & Sterling \$39,474 to make the community safer to walk and bike



Accomplishments

- Hosted Subway Challenge Kickoff and spokesperson Jared Fogle
- Awarded Palmetto Gold for Student Achievement and Palmetto Silver for Closing the Gap
- State Farm Grant \$39, 474
- Record PTA Fundraising
- Sara Newell - Top Ten Finalist for District Teacher of the Year
- \$5,000 Soil and Water Conservation Grant Awarded-Ms. Tracy Carney
- Extensive student and team awards across the school
- Partnered with the Nicholtown Community:
 - Community Field Trips
 - Water Sampling and Conservation in Sliding Rock Creek
 - Students Evaluating Biking and Walking Routes
 - Student Design of Community Way-finding Signs
 - Fall and Spring Walk and Bike to School Days



SIC MEMBERS 2012-2013	PARENTS	COMMUNITY	TEACHERS
Ex-Officio	Jeff Dishner Chair	Nancy Halverson The Children's Museum of the Upstate	John Burdick
David Johnstone Principal	Carol Beard	Pastor Darin Blue Nicholtown Missionary Baptist Church	Lydia Cooper
Ellie Hammond PTA President	Lydia Currie	Jane Snyder Dir. Gifted & Talented	Sara Newell
Casey Noble Guidance	Kim Gibson	Dr. Karen Sparkman Dir. of Early Childhood Services	
Terrell Mills Past SIC Chair	Rolanda James	Yvonne Reeder President Nicholtown Neighborhood Association	
	Maurie Lawrence		

TEACHER TRAINING



Professional Development

Teachers have worked throughout the school year improving themselves as teachers. Teachers shared best practices, and took additional leadership roles in meeting planning and development. Teachers also took a tour of the Nicholtown Community.