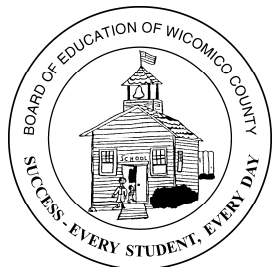


BOARD OF EDUCATION OF WICOMICO COUNTY



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CHOICES



School Improvement Plan

2009 – 2010

It is the policy of the Wicomico County Board of Education to provide equal educational and employment opportunities regardless of age, gender, race, color, religion, national origin, disability or sexual orientation.

CHOICES
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
2009 – 2010

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of Choices is to provide a holistic approach to education in an alternative setting which is facilitated by caring, competent adults and effective community partnerships in order to promote positive academic, behavioral, and social skills.

BELIEF STATEMENTS:

- Students are entitled to a safe, caring environment that promotes learning.
- Students need a variety of instructional approaches and strategies in order to learn.
- Students thrive in a positive environment, fostered by building healthy relationships with peers and staff.
- Students are responsible and accountable for their own behavior.
- Students' resilience is strengthened through education, motivation, discipline and responsibility.
- Students have strengths that can be channeled into positive directions.
- Parental/guardian involvement is foremost in students' education.
- Community partnerships promote responsible citizens.

**CHOICES
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
2009 – 2010**

GOALS:

- Students will improve their attendance rate while at Choices over their attendance rate for the previous school year.
- Students will decrease their out-of-school suspension rate while at Choices over their out-of-school suspension rate for the previous school year.
- For 2009-2010, the recidivism rate will decrease by 0.5% over 2008-2009.

**CHOICES
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
2009 – 2010**

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT REALITY:

Data Source	Observations About the Aggregated Data, including Trends	Observations About the Disaggregated Data, including Trends
Student Attendance including comparison of previous with current Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA for 8/28/08 to 9/15/08 – 76.4% • ADA for September 2008 – 80% • ADA for October 2008 – 79.8% • ADA for November 2008 – 63.1% • ADA for January 2009 – 68% • ADA for February 2009 – 68% 	
Office Referrals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total for year: 1,245 	
Recidivism Rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total for year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15/57 (26%) ○ 15/229 (6.75%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fourth quarter 2008 – • First quarter 2009 – 8/23 (35%) • Second quarter 2009 – 6/14 (43%) • Third quarter 2009 – 1/20 (5%)
Suspensions (Out-of-school)		
Parent Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back to School “Taste of Choices” August 21, 2008 - 5 • PTA October 13, 2008 - 4 • PTA January 12, 2009 - 3 • Open House February 19, 2009 - 9 • PTA May 11, 2009 - 2 	

**CHOICES
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
2009 – 2010**

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES:

School Improvement Priority A: <u>Accelerate student learning</u>	
Action Step	Aligns with Master Plan Strategy #
A1 Utilize effective instructional strategies to meet the needs of diverse learners and improve learning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide time during the school day for academic intervention and/or enrichment. • Use EdOptions and other available software to tailor the learning environment to each student's identified needs. 	2
A2 Maintain individual student learning plans to determine each student's areas of strength and need and to set appropriate goals.	2
A3 Utilize student learning data to accelerate student achievement in reading. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize ProQuest to match text to instructional reading level based upon Lexile scores. • Provide students with access to Kurzweil software as appropriate to support auditory learners and struggling readers. • Investigate enhancements to EdOptions that might be available. 	4
A4 Develop a media center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Supervisor of Secondary Media to secure books and other materials. • Establish criteria consistent with other secondary schools for the circulation of materials. 	4
A5 Utilize student learning data to accelerate student achievement in math. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the use of software to improve students' basic math facts skills. • Continue to customize Yearly Progress Pro to provide individual students with appropriate practice exercises. 	4
A6 Improve teachers' expertise in the use of technology for administrative and instructional purposes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide professional development on the use of EdOptions. • Provide professional development on the use of ProQuest to locate and match articles and text based on a student's Lexile scores from SRI. • Provide professional development on the use of Kurzweil software. • Provide professional development on the use of the integrated X2 grade book. • Provide professional development on the use of Turning Point. 	2

**CHOICES
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
2009 – 2010**

School Improvement Priority B: <u>Improve student attendance</u>	
Action Step	Aligns with Master Plan Strategy #
B1 Review and analyze student attendance data.	9
B2 Improve student attendance rate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify an alternative education contact at each home school to ensure timely communication and a smooth transition as students move to and from Choices. • Clarify the role and job description of the alternative education contact in collaboration with the home schools. • Inform parents about the attendance appeals process at intake meetings as appropriate. • Encourage students and their families to follow through on attendance appeals in a timely manner. • Make personal phone calls for immediate, daily contacts with the home whenever students are absent from school. • Utilize Parent Link software to facilitate communication with parents. • Contact parents when students are absent to encourage their collaboration in addressing the concern. • Recognize students with outstanding attendance through incentives, awards, and a recognition assembly. 	9

**CHOICES
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
2009 – 2010**

School Improvement Priority C: <u>Improve school climate to ensure a safe, drug-free environment conducive to learning</u>	
Action Step	Aligns with Master Plan Strategy #
C1 Review and analyze student behavior data.	7
C2 Provide professional development on student behavior management to all staff.	7
C3 Maintain and implement the school’s Crisis Management Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a table-top drill in collaboration with the Sheriff’s Deputy and the Director of Student Services. 	7
C4 Enhance parent communication and family involvement in the educational process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to conduct intake meetings to identify solutions to help students be successful in school. • Conduct home visits as indicated. • Provide families with information about other community services which they might access. • Invite parents to serve on a parent committee to provide input and to help plan family involvement events and educational seminars (e.g., parenting skills). • Provide periodic reports to parents on student growth and achievement. 	6
C5 Engage stakeholders in the recognition, promotion, and enhancement of students’ strengths using the Developmental Assets. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide professional development on the Developmental Assets. • Continue to utilize Developmental Assets inventory to identify students’ strengths and needs, developing a “typical” student profile that can be used to foster common approaches in developing student assets. • Continue to provide one-on-one and small group mental health counseling. • Identify opportunities for students to express themselves creatively. • Solicit community donations to provide opportunities for enrichment and positive recognition. 	9
C6 Continue to develop and refine the staff handbook to improve the effectiveness of the program.	16

**CHOICES
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
2009 – 2010**

4. What action step(s) in the school improvement plan does the professional development address?

- Action steps A6 (technology skills) and C2 (student behavior management)

**CHOICES
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
2009 – 2010**

B. Activity/Program Content and Delivery

Program Description(s) (Briefly describe the content of each aspect of the program.)	Professional Development Content Standards¹	Delivery System(s)²	Participants	Person(s) Responsible for Planning	Is Follow-up Planned? (Yes or No) If yes, describe the follow up activities that are planned.³
EdOptions training	Content knowledge and quality teaching	Large group presentation, demonstration, observation of participants	Middle and high school teachers, administration	Principal	Yes, discussions during faculty meetings, small group discussions, team meetings
SRI/ProQuest	Diverse learning needs	Large group presentation, demonstration, observation of participants	Middle and high school teachers, administration	Principal	Yes, follow-up with content supervisor, small group discussion, team meetings
Kurzweil	Diverse learning needs	Large group presentation, demonstration, observation of participants	Middle and high school teachers, administration	Principal	Yes, discussions during faculty meetings, small group discussions, team meetings
Turning Point	Diverse learning needs	Large group presentation, demonstration, observation of participants	Middle and high school teachers, administration	Principal	Yes, discussions during faculty meetings, small group discussions, team meetings
X2 grade book	Content knowledge and quality teaching	Large group presentation, demonstration, observation of participants	Middle and high school teachers, administration	Principal	Yes, discussions during faculty meetings, small group discussions, team meetings

**CHOICES
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2009 – 2010**

Student Behavior Management	Research-based	Large group presentation	Middle and high school teachers, administration, support staff (e.g., nurse, social workers, instructional assistants)	Principal	Yes, discussions during faculty meetings, small group discussions, team meetings, possible additional presentations
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5. Briefly describe how principals and other school leaders will be involved in the activity or program.

- The principal will schedule the professional development sessions, including working with staff to identify appropriate session trainers and facilitators, and will be an active participant.

**CHOICES
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
2009 – 2010**

C. Evaluation Plan

Program Description(s) (Copy the program description from the chart in Part B.)	Did the program actually occur?	Who participated?	What follow up occurred and who participated in it?	Program Evaluation How was the program evaluated? Was the activity successful? Why?
EdOptions training				
SRI/ProQuest				
Kurzweil				
Turning Point				
X2 grade book				
Student Behavior Management				

Note: The evaluation report will be submitted to the Director of Curriculum and Professional Development within four weeks of the ending date or May 30 whichever occurs first.