Executive Summary
Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting
February 28, 2012

Hawk Elementary and Standards Based Report Cards

Board Goal:
II. Teaching and Learning:
- Cultivate a consistent, strong, district-wide balanced curriculum based on ongoing needs assessments that supports all students.
- Advocate and practice true accountability based on measurement of individual student progress over time, regardless of external mandates.

Purpose of Report
The intent of this workshop is to provide "background knowledge" for the work that has been conducted by the staff at Hawk Elementary on Standards Based Report Cards and Standards Based Reporting. The goal of the presentation is to share the work of the staff, but also to provide information to our board about the importance of implementing effective uses of assessment to help all children learn. The attachments are as follows: Making the Grade; Response to Assessment Feedback; Assessment for Learning.

Objectives

Information and current progress of this pilot program for Standards Based Reporting at Hawk Elementary.

Operational Impact
None

Results
Standards Based Schools and Reporting is an overview of the work that has occurred at Hawk Elementary over the last three years. This work was seen as innovative and visionary and was showcased at the Texas Association of School Administrators annual Mid-Winter conference in January of this school year. Below you will find mini summaries of the attachments to this presentation as well as a link to Converge Magazine on changing grading practices. Hawk Elementary staff and students believe this is the best, research based way to approach teaching and learning as well as how we report progress or learning hurdles to K-5 students on Hawk's campus.

"Making the Grade"
An article found in a recent Family Circle magazine. This article is very "parent friendly" in that it references the work of the leaders in education we studied, yet presents it in terms parents are likely to understand and relate to. This article has been distributed for parents to read.

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"Assessment FOR Learning: A Path to Success in Standards-Based Schools"
This article was referenced in the first edition of "The Hawk Insider" this school year and parents were extended the opportunity to request copies if they wanted deeper insight into our work. This particular article was written with the educator in mind, yet has valuable information for all users of our assessment practices.

"Response to Assessment Feedback: The Effects of Grades, Praise and Sour of Information"
This is a position paper that provides more detail on the importance of feedback to students in place of numerical grades. Our research informed us that feedback on student work (conversation about where a child is in relation to a specific learning target) leads to a 30% increase in student scores; when numerical grades are combined with specific feedback, no gains in achievement were documented. The conclusion documented in this research is that when grades and feedback are combined students (and parents) only pay attention to the grades, thus not benefiting from the feedback. It is further documented in the book Visible Learning, by John Hattie, that feedback between student and teacher will have a positive "effect size" of .73 on student performance, noting that a effect size larger than .40 is significant in a child's learning.

Three Reasons Why Schools Change Grading Practices:
http://www.convergemag.com/curriculum/Grading-Practices.html#.T0P-SGJtRAc.email

This link provides a brief overview of how a school system has changed its' assessment practices and the reasoning behind these changes.

This information is intended as an overview only. Dozens of additional sources have been utilized over the past 3 years as the staff at Hawk have work to better utilize assessment to help our children learn.

Other Options

Traditional grade reporting system