

2002

**Big Changes In Minidoka
County Schools**

2002

East and West Minico Middle Schools Were
created.

Emphasis:

- Advisory
- Exploratory classes
- Teaming

Intended purposes of advisory:

- Assure students will have an **adult advocate** (Advisor).
- Guarantee that every student belongs to a **peer group**.
- Help every student find ways of being **successful** within the **academic and social** options the school provides.
- Promote **communication and coordination** between home and school.
- Agree that there will be **no grade** for Advisory.

Anecdotal studies have suggested that Advisories promote:

- Lower dropout rates.
- Improved attendance.
- Increases in self-confidence.
- Perceived safer school.
- Perceived increase in overall pleasant school atmosphere.

District Data Concerns

- **Less academic class time.**
- **Larger mainstream classes.**
- **Lower grades and test scores.**
- **Little or no comparative data.***

***2002-03 ended of Direct Writing Assessment and Iowa Test of Basic Skills. Started ISAT 1. Continued with the Direct Math Assessment which our scores dropped continually for the next several years (per data from Jodi Mills) prior to discontinuation.**

“...There are very few rigorous studies (about advisories) from which to determine the effects on student outcomes...Schools developing advisories have relied upon intuition and anecdotal evidence rather than empirical data” (Shulkind & Foote, 2009).

McClure, L., Yonezawa, S., & Jones, M. (2010)

Positive perceptions of advisory programs were associated with worse academic outcomes

Suggesting...

“...personalization approaches must move beyond the formal advisory period to become part of the schoolwide culture.”

Diffrences in East and West Advisory

- 1. Three Days for *East...Five at West.**
- 2. West 23 minutes per day...East 30.**
- 3. West Minico Watches Channel One**

A. Advisory activities are basically the same at both schools.

OUR SURVEY RESULTS (i.e. Anecdotal Data)

Returned surveys:

East 11

West 12

Average usefulness rank:

East 7.14 range=3-10

West 4.08 range=0-7

Teachers 5 Top Reasons for Liking Advisory

- **Getting to know the Students**
- **Checking grades**
- **Holding discussions**
- **Helping with Homework**
- **Contacting Parents**

Teachers Top Reasons to Dislike Advisory

- **Too many interruptions**
- **Kids don't bring work/books**
- **Students are not serious**

What Students Like About Advisory

- **Do homework/have discussions.**
- **Watch Channel One**
- **Time to read**
- **Not as many people**
- **Relax/Free time**
- **Color**
- **Hang out with friends/talk**
- **Short class**
- **Average ranking 6.8 Range 5-9**

Questions/Comments/Suggestions