

## **Title I School-wide Plan for Beaverdam Elementary School 2011-2012**

### **Stakeholders Participation for Components of Plan**

Beaverdam Elementary's Title Schoolwide Plan for 2011-12 is the result of collaborating with its Leadership Team consisting of staff members from each grade level and subject area and parents, PTO, Council, students, reading consultant, and administration. The areas of student achievement (reading/language arts, math, science, and social studies), student attendance, parental involvement, character education development, technology, and health education and development are being addressed schoolwide in detail as they relate to school improvement goals. Beaverdam has met AYP (adequate yearly progress) for the past eleven years.

The Beaverdam School Council will have the opportunity to listen to both the results of testing as well as the School Improvement Plan. The PTO will receive a mini presentation of both. Information will be sent in a newsletter to each child and family. Individual student results will be shared with parents during scheduled conferences and updates will be given on student progress/benchmark tests throughout the year. All stakeholders will be given ample opportunities to give us feedback so that we might make better changes in the future. It is our intention to keep all stakeholders involved in our School Improvement Plan.

### **Title I Resources and other resources to implement components**

Student achievement with regards to academic improvement will be supported by one parapro in each grade room, one parapro in second and third grade and one in fourth and fifth grade. Two EIP paraprofessionals will be assigned as follows - one in the computer lab and the other will assist in the lower grade computer lab. Additional duties include scheduling all paraprofessionals as additional hands-on instructional aides for every math class every day. Seven full time paraprofessionals, paid with by Title I funds, work with students one-on-one for additional needs.

Title I funds will be used to provide paraprofessional assistance.

### **Programs Consolidated in the Schoolwide Plan**

Early Intervention Program  
Office of School Readiness (PreK)  
Head Start  
R.E.S.A.  
Department of Family and Children Services  
Elbert 4-H Club

## **Provide Individual Student Academic Assessments**

The entire student body (K-5) is provided the Direct Instruction Reading Program individual assessment for reading skills. Students are placed in groups according to their ability level as assessed on a reading test by the DI reading consultant and trained teachers. Students are able to be promoted to a higher reading group as they demonstrate proficiency on daily assessments at their ability level. If remediation is necessary, RTI instruction will be provided during the day and/or before or after school.

In addition, the RTI, (Response to Intervention) process is a vital assessment tool, as individual student academic and behavioral weaknesses are identified, remediated, and documented. Parents, teachers, and an administrator meet periodically to assess student achievement. Students who have achieved academic or behavioral success are dismissed from the process. Students who have not achieved will be progress monitored and will move up the Tier of Intervention plan.

Students will be given the STAR Early Literacy test at least three times during the year. The results are tabulated and graphed so that each child's area of weakness can be determined. Modifications are made based on the individual student's needs. Students will also be given benchmark tests at the end of the first nine weeks, at the end of the first semester or second nine weeks, and again at the end of the third nine weeks. Re-teaching or modifications will be given at this time. RTI students are progress monitored one or two times weekly.

Parent and teacher conferences are held periodically during the school year. Teachers at Beaverdam have called individual parenting sessions during their planning times during the first nine weeks of school. Beaverdam uses this time to review the previous year's standardized test results for individual students as requested by parents. Parents whose first language is other than English are provided an interpreter at any conference. (One of our paraprofessionals is fluent in Spanish.) This is helpful since Beaverdam houses most of the ESOL students in the county. Any written documentation is translated by a local high school teacher and a copy is provided to the parents.

## **Comprehensive Needs Assessment**

The standardized test results from the Spring 2011 CRCT (grades 3-5) have been reviewed and dissected by teachers and the administration during preplanning of the year. Copies of these results were sent home the first week of school. **Parent surveys are given out on this day** and the results are used to make the next visitation day better for the parents and students.

Parent surveys were sent home in the Spring of 2011 to get parent input and suggestions of the quality of education their children are getting at Beaverdam Elementary. Results from the survey were tallied and used to develop the school improvement plan for this

year. Another survey will be sent home in the Spring of 2012. The results will be used to do future planning. The results will be shared with the Student Council.

### **School-wide Reform Strategies**

In the content areas of reading-fluency, all third graders and struggling readers in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades will be screened on the Visagraph to check eye movement and look for causes of struggling. If necessary these students will then be placed in READING PLUS.

#### **Math**

Our county is currently training teachers in grades 3-5 in the conceptual teaching of math skills outlined by our Georgia Performance Standards. Teachers create differentiated lessons and put them into practice so that they can share their experiences with others in the class. The instructors are from NE Georgia RESA and GLRS. Class sessions include additional support in the content area of math with a math specialist to model effective, research-based instruction that improves test scores. Another class will be scheduled for K-2 teachers early in 2012.

iSteep has been purchased by the county to help teachers monitor Math progress. Training will be administered to the teachers using this program. Other software or internet sources have been purchased as well to offer various opportunities to excel in math. Hopefully, these endeavors will aid us in making significant changes in the math scores this year.

Reform strategies to improve student attendance will be accomplished by a letter from the Elbert County Superintendent of Schools stressing the importance of consistent school attendance by students to avert gaps in learning. The Parent Involvement Coordinator and the social worker assist with follow-up home visits of those individual students who have written referrals for excessive attendance concerns or need family assistance from other local agencies. Students will be encouraged and rewarded by their teachers and the administration by having a perfect attendance award presented at the end of each nine weeks and at the end of the year Award's Day ceremony.

Character development will be promoted by the daily recitation of the Character Pledge led by students over the intercom and on Beaverdam Today (student TV program presently weekly). The Boys Scout presented Beaverdam with a Character Ed program that is used daily by our teachers. Many students attend the Boys and Girls Club which promoted self-esteem, good character, and provides homework assistance. TShis year A NEWLY FORMED Character Educatrion committee has been formed to look at new strategies and/or programs to use at Beaverdam.

### **Instruction by highly qualified teachers**

All teachers at Beaverdam Elementary are highly qualified by their state certificates on file at the Board of Education with the personnel director.

## **High Quality Professional Development**

Teachers are afforded the opportunity to take In-Service workshops (Direct Instruction) and Staff Development Courses such as: Special Georgia Technology Certification “About Teaching Math,” “Classroom Instruction that Works,” and “Strategies and Techniques for Dealing with the Most Difficult to Manage Students.” Paraprofessionals are encouraged to participate in the “Learning Focused Schools Strategies for Paraprofessionals,” “Power Point Presentation,” “Brain Gym Classroom Management for Paraprofessionals,” workshops. Parents have been offered School Council Training Sessions. Parents have also been given the opportunity to participate in sessions provided by the PTO in Reading (Spotlight on Reading) and Science (Science Night at Beaverdam). The administration has recently completed the Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement which as a three year commitment for three years. Currently, the administration is developing school improvement strategies with direction from GSPR (Georgia Standards Performance Review) consultants and is diligently working on formulating a Scorecard to help with our school improvement endeavors.

## **Strategies to attract highly qualified teachers to high-needs schools**

The personnel director for Elbert County Schools is directly responsible for the recruitment of highly qualified teachers in high-needs schools. The administration at Beaverdam is constantly in contact with teachers and other professional administrators that will recommend quality teachers for our consideration, especially in the area of special needs education.

## **Strategies to increase parent involvement**

Parent involvement opportunities will include but are not limited to SST (Student Support Team) meetings, IEP (Individual Education Plan) meetings, three P.T.O. meetings, an annual Open House, a winter carnival, two book fairs, a Grandparent Luncheon, Parent/teacher Visitation Day with prescheduled conferences, School and Countywide Spelling Bee, Award’s Day, Volunteer Program and Luncheon, Dr. Seuss’s Birthday “Read Across America,” The Beaverdam Newsletter, School Council, student progress reports, student handbooks, student agendas and have a child read to you or simply have lunch with them. A Title I survey will be distributed to every home to evaluate parents’ perception of the school’s effectiveness and suggestions for improvement plans. These results will be tabulated and shared with the School Council and PTO members. Parents are encouraged to attend all student functions (open door policy).

A parent/student/teacher compact will continue to be distributed to all students to be taken home, read, and signed by all parties to state the school’s philosophy with regards to student participation, parent involvement and the teacher’s commitment for a quality education for each student. Parent letters of information are sent home in the language that is spoken primarily in the home.

## **Plans for assisting Pre-School children**

Pre-K teachers work closely and meet with the Kindergarten teachers to provide a seamless education as they make the transition. Planning time is set aside to discuss developmentally appropriate activities for Pre-K students (socialization, collaboration with peers, learning centers, etc).

Since many of our prospective kindergarten students are attending PreK in another school, Beaverdam kindergarten teachers will hold an open house in the Spring of 2011 at which time parents can meet the teachers and receive information on kindergarten expectations for the following year. This was done for the first time in May Of 2008 with much success. The parents indicated that this relieved a lot of stress for them. Other schools in the county will be following suit this year.

## **Measures to include teachers in the decisions regarding use of academic assessment**

Faculty meetings are the forum for which decisions are made regarding the use of academic assessments. In addition, weekly grade level planning periods help teachers collaborate with each other to identify individual and grade level strengths and weaknesses as identified by daily assessments or standardized test results.

The leadership team meets to discuss concerns and may suggestions. Concerning technology, the Grant Team applied for and received money to turn 4 classrooms and the media center into 21<sup>st</sup> Century classrooms. This team has been and will continue to be used to make technology decisions at Beaverdam.

## **Activities for those students experiencing difficulty mastering proficiency or advance levels of academic achievement levels**

Students that require remediation are given one-on-one assistance from grade level paraprofessionals or parent/community volunteers. Students that achieve at higher academic levels who are eligible for gifted services attend the Challenge Program. Also high achievers are given will be given ample opportunity to excel using the gizmos and software provided in the classroom and in the computer labs.

Teachers volunteer to provide an after school challenge for students that are having difficulties. The Boys and Girls Club have a "Power Hour" to give students an opportunity to do homework, make-up work, or work on skills identified as problem areas. Teachers volunteer to stay during this time to help students. Title I funds have been used to purchase some software for the Computer Lab to work on reading/language arts and math skills: My Reading Coach for phonics and phonemic awareness; Visagraph for reading fluency. These are used both during school and after school for remediation. Summer School is also provided for students in grades 3-5 that do not meet GPS standards in Reading/Language Arts and Math.

## **Coordination of Federal, State and local services and programs**

Title I, Office of School Readiness (Pre-K), Department of Family and Children Services, Pilot Club of Elberton, Parent Involvement Coordinator, Pre-K Resource Coordinator, Nutrition Director, the Boys and Girls Club Director, School resource personnel, R.E.S.A., and the Elbert County Board of Education coordinate to insure that Beaverdam Elementary School reaches its full potential in meeting the needs of every student.

***Motto: Beaverdam Elementary School strives for success, one child at a time.***