

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

A. Principles

The Board affirms the General Assembly's belief that all children can learn and that the mission of public schools is to challenge, with high expectations, each child to learn, achieve and fulfill his/her potential.

Accordingly, the Board has established its vision, standards and means of accountability for the educational program in its policies. The Superintendent is expected to provide guidance and to establish any other standards necessary for effective implementation of the policies.

Principals are responsible for leading their schools in implementing the policies. One tool to be used by schools for drawing upon the creativity and innovation of the staff and the community is the School Improvement Plan. This plan should identify the efforts by the school to improve student performance and reach the educational goals of the Board.

Principals, assistant principals, teachers and other instructional staff should lead in designing and implementing strategies to reach the educational goals of the Board at each school. Input from the school community (including parents, students, and representatives from businesses and other agencies) is critical in developing an educational program that will meet the needs of the students and the community.

B. Program For School-Based Management and Accountability

The Board endorses the principles set forth by the State Board that all children need to master basic skills and knowledge and build upon this foundation for lifelong learning. Therefore, in developing their School Improvement Plan, to the extent possible, all schools will ensure that sufficient resources and curriculum are directed towards meeting the goal of having all students perform at grade level or higher in the basic subject and skill areas identified by the State Board.

C. School Improvement Team

Each school will have a School Improvement Team that will develop the School Improvement Plan. The School Improvement Team will be composed of the principal, representatives of the assistant principals, instructional personnel, instructional support personnel, teacher assistants, and parents of students attending the school. Parents will be elected in accordance with G.S. 115C-105.27. The School Improvement Team is encouraged to involve and seek assistance from central office personnel. The School Improvement Team, especially at the middle and high schools, is also encouraged to seek input from students.

The School Improvement Team will follow all legal requirements in developing the plan and in obtaining school approval of the School Improvement Plan. As a public body, the School Improvement Team must comply with the Open Meetings Law in regard to its meetings.

The Superintendent will develop a process by which schools can learn from each other's School Improvement Plans. The Superintendent and the schools are encouraged to use staff development resources to provide training to staff on the development, implementation and evaluation of School Improvement Plans.

School administrators will be evaluated by their supervisors on the school-based management process and on the effectiveness of the School Improvement Plan.