

WCS PLC Leadership Team Report

School Improvement Plan: Using Standardized Test Data Effectively

According to the WCS School Improvement Plan for student learning, an established goal is to use standardized test data effectively. Data literacy was the focus of teacher inservice to help teachers acquire the skills and knowledge to effectively use test data in developing teaching strategies. Our objective is to use the test data for the purpose of addressing areas of weakness in student achievement. Department heads along with school administration conducted analysis of the test scores. Each department determined three specific instructional improvement goals designed to improve student achievement in identified areas of weakness.

The Elementary PLC teams were restructured to focus on the Language Arts (Reading, Spelling, and Language) since the adoption of the new Foundations and Frameworks curriculum. The teams (Upper Elementary, Lower Elementary and Early Childhood) will utilize the Department Heads SAT-10 (21010) Analysis for Language Arts to prepare Actions Plans for each grade level.

Comparison 2009 and 2010 SAT-10 Test Results

Improvements as a result of a deliberate Action Plan: Language Arts Foundations and Framework Curriculum Impact

Subtest or Cluster	2009	2010	Improvement	Instructional Emphasis	Foundation & Framework Specific
2 nd Grade Critical Analysis and strategies in Reading Comprehension	Below Average 25%	6%	19%	Demonstrate ability to identify characteristics of genre and unknown words in context	1 st 6 weeks spent on indentifying genres: fairy tales, fables, tall tales, and biographies.
3 rd Grade Phonetic Analysis of vowel sounds	Below Average 30%	6%	24%	Demonstrate ability to relate vowel sounds to most common spellings	In Spell to Write and Read, spelling words are introduced phonetically.
4 th Grade Synonyms in Reading Vocabulary	Below Average 29%	3%	26%	Demonstrate the ability to recognize a synonym for a printed word	Synonyms are emphasized in vocabulary instruction.
5 th Grade Content and Organization in Language	Below Average 26%	14%	12%	Determine appropriate editing of short paragraphs	Content and organization is reinforced daily through summary writing

6 th Grade					of daily reading assignments.
Content and Organization in Language	Below Average	33%	8%	25%	Determine appropriate editing of short paragraphs
					Determine appropriate editing of short paragraphs

History

After analysis of test data, Upper Elementary (5th/6th grade) History curriculum has been changed for the current school year. This change is intended to better meet the student's needs in keeping with the Alabama Course of Study. This area will be analyzed to evaluate the impact on student test scores of this change in curriculum.

Math Action Plan Results

Most grades demonstrated improvement in specific targeted areas of content. The most marked improvements occurred in the 3rd and 5th grade.

Content Area	2009	2010	Improvement
3 rd Grade			
Computation	Below Avg	Below Avg	
Symbolic Notation	31%	5%	26%
5 th Grade			
Number Sense and operations	Below Avg	Below Avg	
	24%	8%	16%
5 th Grade			
Computation with Whole Numbers	Below Avg	Below Avg	
	27%	8%	19%

WCS PLC Leadership Team Report
School Improvement Plan: Using Standardized Test Data Effectively
Secondary (Grades 7-10) Stanford-10 Data Analysis

The Science department designated high priority clusters and a specific action plan for improvement in science instruction for the targeted areas of concern. In **every** targeted cluster, the improvement from 2009 to 2010 test data was significant.

Science			
Content Area	2009	2010	Improvement
7th Grade			
Models	Below Avg 28%	Below Avg 14%	14%
Form and Function	Below Avg 22%	Below Avg 12%	10%
8th Grade			
Models	Below Avg 14%	Below Avg 11%	3%
Constancy	9%	7%	2%
9th Grade			
Earth Science	Below Avg 26%	Below Avg 9%	16%
Nature of Science	Below Avg 23%	Below Avg 2%	21%
Models	Below Avg 18%	Below Avg 4%	14%
Form and Function	Below Avg 21%	Below Avg 11%	10%
10th Grade			
Physical Science	Below Avg 22%	Below Avg 7%	15%
Form and Function	Below Avg 24%	Below Avg 5%	19%

Mathematics

Content Area	2009 Below Avg.	2010 Below Avg.	Improvement
7th Grade			
Estimation	20%	16%	16%
Reasoning and Problem Solving	7%	14%	(7%)
8th Grade			
Estimation	11%	2%	9%
Reasoning and Problem Solving	20%	16%	4%
9th Grade			
Estimation	18%	9%	9%
Reasoning and Problem Solving	24%	16%	8%
10th Grade			
Estimation	21%	10%	11%
Reasoning and Problem Solving	13%	12%	1%

Almost all grades saw a decrease in % of students below average.

Area to be targeted for the 2010-2011 school year in mathematics:

Critical Thinking Skills

This is not a specific area of the SAT, but it impacts several specific areas on the SAT. Every objective includes the words demonstrate understanding of The Math Department will target instruction to teach students how to use the concepts to solve everyday problems. Instructional planning will stress graphs, charts, sequences, tables and lists. The goal is to help increase score in the two clusters of reasoning and problem solving, and data, statistics and probability.

