

Curriculum Summary Update

May 2013



Verona Board of Education

Academic Achievement Focus 2009-2013

The Board defined student achievement as an area of distinct focus in 2007. We approved a Curricular Director hire but that candidate rescinded when then superintendent resigned. The Board committed to improving academic performance in the 2008-2013 Five-Year Strategic Plan.

Following the Strategic Plan, we have implemented the following changes:

- Enhanced our Administrative Structure
 - Established the position of Director of Studies in 2009/10, and Certified Supervisors in 2010/11.
- Implemented UbD (the first formal district-wide curriculum model for Verona):
 - A formal curriculum development process, including unit design and student goals
 - Comprehensive training to help teachers design, edit, critique, peer- review, share, and improve their lessons and assessments
- Implemented Genesis (Student Information System)
 - Includes a web-based parent portal and is integrated with School Wires (our website)
- Implemented a model for analyzing student data
 - To identify District, Building, Classroom and Student trends (both strengths and weaknesses)

As a result of these actions...

1. We have rewritten our curriculum, following our new model, district-wide.
 - Some curriculum written & revised given timing of the new CCSS mandates
 - All core curriculum now on-line and openly available to parents & students (over 100 documents)
 - Much of our curricular content has changed dramatically
2. We have refined our Professional Development (staff training) program based on the results we see in student performance. We changed the teacher observation model to include principals, curricular supervisors and the superintendent.
3. We have changed course offerings, sequence and teacher assignments, as needed.
4. We are implementing the Marzano model for staff evaluations pursuant to state mandates (consistent with the methods we already defined for Verona).
5. Grown the North Essex Professional Development Consortium (which we established)
 - Now includes Glen Ridge, West Caldwell, Montclair, West Essex & Verona

Our results so far...

- *We have made steady and consistent progress, where we have focused attention.*
- *We have many areas we have not yet been able to focus – there is much, much more to improve.*
- *Our students and staff have met the challenges of change and have performed very well in difficult circumstances.*
- *We must remain committed to continually improving, year over year, with a sound, sensible approach to change.*

NJ Report Card Data allows us to compare how we are performing alongside our DFG peers (demographics being the most consistent predictor of academic performance).

- We gauge our success and areas of improvement against the DFG average
- We know we generally trail the DFG performance and there is no reason we cannot improve that
- However, we are focused on slightly different areas given our strengths, weaknesses, schedule of curriculum change, staff assignments, etc

Important to note:

- Standardized tests comprise multiple clusters (sub-topics). We are targeting specific clusters for improvement as we go.
- We have certain grades/subjects where %PP is much higher than it should be – these are also areas of focus.
- We have targeted some grades/subjects where many %P can become %AP, given the range in scores (below 200 is PP, 200-249 is P, 250/above is AP)

The Results – Elementary Math

- Focus on two of the five math clusters (Patterns & Algebra and Data, Probability & Discrete Math)
- Focus on lowering (improving) %PP
- Focus this year is on alignment with new CCSS

ASK 3 Math	08-09		11-12	
Cluster	V	DFG	V	DFG
Numbers	13.7	15.3	13.7	14.8
Geometry	8.1	8.7	7.6	8.0
Patterns & Algebra	7.7	8.2	8.2	8.3
Data, Prob, Discrete Math	5.5	5.8	6.1	6.0
Problem Solving	17.2	18.9	12.4	13.1
%PP	14.3%	8.6%	6.5%	5.5%

ASK 4 Math	08-09		11-12	
Cluster	V	DFG	V	DFG
Numbers	14.1	15.5	14.1	15.4
Geometry	6.6	7.1	7.3	8.1
Patterns & Algebra	8.5	8.5	7.3	8.1
Data, Prob, Discrete Math	5.3	5.3	4.7	5.4
Problem Solving	15.3	16.5	14.1	14.8
%PP	11%	9.9%	14.6%	6.1%

- ✓ At or above DFG in both targeted areas
- ✓ Reduced %PP to within 1% of DFG

- ! Identified specific issues at 2 buildings where 32 of 36 PP students attend
- ✓ Two buildings improved to within 2/10ths DFG Avg

The Results – Elementary LAL

- Focus on Writing Workshop in curriculum
- Focus on Reading Workshop beginning in current year (grades 1 & 2 will begin in coming year)
- Focus on lowering (improving) %PP

ASK 3 LAL	08-09		11-12	
Cluster	V	DFG	V	DFG
Writing	9.6	11.3	11.4	11.4
Reading	18.3	19.2	18.2	17.9
%PP	14.3%	14.7%	10.1%	11.7%

- ✓ At or above DFG in both targeted areas
- ✓ Further reduced %PP to below DFG

ASK 4 LAL	08-09		11-12	
Cluster	V	DFG	V	DFG
Writing	12.0	12.4	12.6	13.0
Reading	25.0	25.4	22.2	22.1
%PP	10.3%	13.7%	19%	16.6%

- ! Identified specific issues at 2 buildings where 33 of 46 PP students attend
- ✓ Reading improved over DFG Avg
- ✓ Two buildings improved to above DFG Avg in both clusters

The Results – HBW Math

- Focus on new 5th grade Math program (Envision Math) in 2012/13 – will effect 6, 7 & 8 in 2013/14
- Focus specifically on Data, Probability, Discrete Math cluster in grades 6, 7, 8
- Focus on lowering (improving) %PP

ASK 5 Math	08-09		11-12	
	V	DFG	V	DFG
Cluster				
Numbers	10.4	11.3	13.1	13.9
Geometry	8.0	8.6	11.6	12.4
Patterns & Algebra	7.8	8.8	6.6	6.8
Data, Prob, Discrete Math	8.6	9.1	4.5	5.4
Problem Solving	17.0	18.4	11.7	13.1
%PP	5%	5.4%	6%	2.7%

ASK 7 Math	08-09		11-12	
	V	DFG	V	DFG
Cluster				
Numbers	9.0	9.0	8.1	8.6
Geometry	9.2	9.2	9.2	10.1
Patterns & Algebra	9.4	9.7	10.0	10.4
Data, Prob, Discrete Math	9.5	9.7	5.5	5.3
Problem Solving	19.4	19.6	16.9	17.7
%PP	20%	11.1%	14.8%	12.3%

ASK 6 Math	08-09		11-12	
	V	DFG	V	DFG
Cluster				
Numbers	9.1	9.1	10.2	10.4
Geometry	9.0	9.3	9.4	9.8
Patterns & Algebra	9.1	9.3	11.3	11.6
Data, Prob, Discrete Math	9.2	9.5	6.7	6.6
Problem Solving	19.5	19.9	17.7	18.1
%PP	11.4%	8.1%	2.6%	3.8%

ASK 8 Math	08-09		11-12	
	V	DFG	V	DFG
Cluster				
Numbers	9.9	10.2	8.8	9.8
Geometry	9.5	9.8	10.6	10.8
Patterns & Algebra	10.1	10.7	8.0	9.6
Data, Prob, Discrete Math	9.5	9.6	6.2	5.9
Problem Solving	14.0	16.9	21.0	22.5
%PP	11.0%	7.1%	6.1%	6.6%

- ✓ At or above DFG in targeted area (6, 7 & 8)
- ✓ Reduced %PP to below DFG in 6 & 8. closed gap in grade 7

! Note significant content change in curriculum beginning Sept 2013 for grades 6, 7 and 8

The Results – HBW LAL

- Focus on new 5th & 6th grade Writing Workshop program in 2011/12
- No focus yet in grades 7 & 8 where performance is currently strong
- Focus on lowering (improving) %PP in line with DFG Avg

ASK 5 LAL	08-09		11-12	
Cluster	V	DFG	V	DFG
Writing	13.0	13.5	12.5	12.8
Reading	30.5	30.7	24.1	25.7
%PP	10.4%	6.6%	18%	12.5%

ASK 6 LAL	08-09		11-12	
Cluster	V	DFG	V	DFG
Writing	9.6	9.7	11	11.4
Reading	35.6	36.9	33.8	34.6
%PP	11.4%	8.2%	11.2%	10.3%

ASK 7 LAL	08-09		11-12	
Cluster	V	DFG	V	DFG
Writing	11.3	11.2	11.4	11.8
Reading	35.6	36.1	34.2	34.8
%PP	5.7%	6.4%	12%	12%

ASK 8 LAL	08-09		11-12	
Cluster	V	DFG	V	DFG
Writing	12	12	11.7	11.9
Reading	37.1	38.1	38.6	39
%PP	2.2%	1.5%	1.8%	1.5%

! Identified implementation issues in last year's 5th grade

✓ Improved %PP closer to DFG in 6, 7 & 8

The Results – VHS

- Focus on improving HSPA LAL %AP and %PP. Math focus on improving %PP
- Focus on culture change on Adv Placement participation & performance
- Focus on Dual-enrolment, College Credit, & new Elective courses

		2012		2011		2010		2009		2008	
		Verona	DFG	Verona	DFG	Verona	DFG	Verona	DFG	Verona	DFG
LAL	%AP	29.3%	38.0%	23.5%	43.4%	14.7%	34.3%	19.9%	25.9%	11.7%	22.8%
	%PP	1.4%	2.7%	4.6%	3.5%	4.7%	3.8%	9.6%	5.6%	8.0%	6.2%
Math	%AP	30.6%	46.7%	27.5%	43.4%	26.7%	42.7%	27.9%	41.2%	30.7%	42.5%
	%PP	11.6%	8.9%	16.3%	11.1%	23.3%	10.8%	18.4%	11.5%	13.9%	10.0%

- ✓ HSPA LAL %PP has steadily declined to below DFG
- ✓ HSPA LAL %AP has increased 150% while DFG has only increased 66% from 2008-2012 (closing the gap).

- ✓ HSPA Math %PP is at lowest level in 5 years

The Results – VHS (Advanced Placement)

We identified Advanced Placement participation and performance as an area for improvement in 2006.

To achieve that, we have:

- Made it easier for students to enroll
- Changed the content, updated curriculum, conducted staff training, changed teaching assignments

✓ We have increased participation while maintaining performance as recognized by College Boards Award.

✓ We now have an enrollment of 371 in current year.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
% 3's or better	76%	66%	49%	59%	71%	64%	72%	Aug 2013	Aug 2014
# tests administered	70	119	225	145	170	183	271	371	427
Total AP Students		77	108	82	75	89	127	171	186

➤ AP Physics – offered for the first time in 2011: 2 of 9 students earned a 3 or better. 2012: 10 of 13 students earned a 3 or better.

➤ AP Chemistry: Through 2011 only 1-5 students earned a 3 or better. In 2012, 12 of 13 students earned a 3 or better.

AP Chemistry	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total Tests	11	22	30	4	10	6	13
# of 3's or better	1	5	3	0	2	3	12

Focus 2013 - Beyond

- We must address the areas in need of improvement that we have not yet focused on.
- We must address upcoming curricular requirements and standards.

- ❑ Must select, implement and write accompanying curriculum for a literacy-based Science and Social studies program for grades K-5
- ❑ Continue Reading Workshop implementation K-4 – next year will be the first year for K-2 (expected to require substantial focus)
- ❑ Implementation of STEM-based enrichment program (EbD) in grades 3-4 next year, 1-2 following year
- ❑ Implementation of new Math and Social Studies electives at VHS next year - plan is to add even more electives at both VHS and HBW in coming years (specifically STEM focused)
- ❑ New National Science Standards have been released and will be adopted by NJ soon – will need to update K-12 Science curriculum
- ❑ Complete development of benchmark assessments – a district initiative and state requirement for new teacher evaluation (requires development and measurement of Student Growth Objectives)
- ❑ Preparing teachers for implementation of PARCC assessments
- ❑ Upcoming changes to AP curriculum & exams per College Board – Biology has already changed, Chemistry, Physics and Computer Science to change over new few years

College Acceptances - 2012

Albright College	Kean University	Towson University
American University	Kutztown University	Tulane University
Amherst College	Lafayette College	UCLA
Bard College	LaSalle University	University of Arizona
Baylor University	Lehigh University	University of Chicago
Berklee College of Music	Long Island University	University of Connecticut
Bloomsburg University	Loyola University MD	University of Maine
Boston College	Loyola University New Orleans	University of Maryland
Boston University	Marist College	University of Massachusetts
Brandeis University	Mass Inst of Technology	University of Miami (FL)
Bucknell University	Monmouth University	University of Michigan
Caldwell College	Montclair State University	University of New Hampshire
Clemson University	New York University	University of Oregon
College of Holy Cross	NJ Inst of Technology	University of Pennsylvania
College of New Jersey	Northeastern University	University of Pittsburgh
Colorado State University	Penn St. University	University of Rhode Island
Cornell University	Providence College	University of Scranton
Dartmouth College	Ramapo College	University of South Carolina
Drew University	Rider University	University of Southern Cal
East Stroudsburg University	Rowan University	University of Vermont
Evergreen St. College	Rutgers University	Villanova University
George Mason University	Seton Hall University	Virginia Tech
George Washington	Siena College	Wake Forest University
Georgetown University	Stevens Tech	West Virginia University
Georgia Tech	SUNY	Williams College
Gettysburg College	Syracuse University	Xavier University
Johnson & Wales	Temple University	Yale University