

Goals and Action Steps for Improvement of Canaan Schools

Vital Results

Goal	Action Steps
1. Healthy Choices by students will be increased as indicated by the annual Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).	<p>a. Administration will identify areas of needed improvement in the after school program and address these areas in a manner that increases the offering of healthy activities for Canaan students. ARRA monies may be used to expand upon afterschool offerings.</p> <p>b. Canaan Schools will continue to contract with Northeast Kingdom Mental Health Services for School Clinician services.</p> <p>c. Administration will work on providing periodic presentations on making healthy choices (avoiding pregnancy, drugs, alcohol) to the student body.</p> <p>d. Staff and students will be trained on how to respond to harassment and bullying by administration and outside presenters. This will include instruction on the procedure and importance of reporting instances of bullying and harassment.</p> <p>e. Administration will raise awareness on cyber bullying with parents through outside presenters and informational evening presentations.</p> <p>f. The cost of the elementary summer recreation program will be shifted from grant funds to more stable local monies.</p> <p>g. The administration and the Athletic Director will work together to increase intramural offerings (hockey, volleyball, touch football) in an attempt to increase student involvement in physical activities by non-athletes.</p>
2. School safety will be increased as measured by community-wide (school and town) surveys.	<p>a. The Emergency Response Planning Committee (ERPC) will continue to meet and work on plans to connect the two school buildings. Steering Committee members will be invited to be part of this process. Administration will work on obtaining the required funding for this project.</p> <p>b. The ERPC will continue to devise drills to increase emergency preparedness at Canaan Schools. Administration will work with local law enforcement to prepare an “active shooter” drill for the school community.</p> <p>c. The Emergency Plan will continue to be reviewed and revised annually. Staff will be trained on how to respond to various crisis situations.</p> <p>d. Administration will notify parents when a real lockdown happens.</p>
3. Healthier food items will be incorporated into the Canaan Schools’ Foods Program.	<p>a. Administration will research ideas on decreasing the amount of processed foods used by the Foods Program.</p> <p>b. Administration will look into applying for a Vermont Feeds grant for planning improvements to the Foods Program.</p>

Curriculum and Instruction

Goal	Action Steps
1. All students entering first grade will be well prepared as determined by individual portfolios and local assessment.	<p>a. Administration will work with teachers at addressing the lack of space for properly meeting the needs of the pre-school program.</p> <p>b. The feasibility of moving from a ½ to full day kindergarten will be researched.</p>
2. Canaan will make the incremental progress necessary to continually hit the Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) as required by the Vermont Department of Education and in response to the NCLBA.	<p>a. The eight standards of writing will be spread out from the English department in an effort to get students and teachers to realize the importance of writing across the curriculum.</p> <p>b. Teaching staff will continue utilization of Curriculum Mapper program to map K-12 curriculum. This data will be used to better align instruction at Canaan Schools with state and national standards. An analysis of gaps and redundancies will be performed.</p> <p>c. Blocks of professional days at the start of the year will be utilized for in depth teacher training. In-service days spread throughout the school year will be used</p>

	<p>to work on initiatives started during the start of year professional development days.</p> <p>d. In accordance with recent research, professional development will move towards more long term experiences and away from individual, one shot conferences. Professional development will be based on needs as shown in assessments and staff and student surveys.</p> <p>e. Teachers will utilize NECAP's released items as a formative assessment tool and to help students prepare for the exam format.</p> <p>f. Teachers will analyze NECAP scores to identify areas of strength and weakness in their curriculum.</p>
3. Canaan students will exhibit an increase in Math and Science skills as evidenced by NECAP and SAT scores.	<p>a. Administration will contact schools with similar demographics as Canaan who have exceeded the state average in Math and Science in an effort to research their practices.</p> <p>b. Federal funds (CFP) will be used to provide professional development opportunities in Mathematics and Science.</p> <p>c. All students will be required to take Algebra I. Pre-algebra (non-credit) will be offered for first semester freshmen who are not ready for Algebra I.</p> <p>d. A professional math consultant (Doug Harris) will be hired to perform an audit of the K-12 math and science curriculums. The final product will involve both commendations and recommendations for improvement of Canaan's Math and Science programs. This report may be presented to the staff, School Board and community members.</p> <p>e. Teachers will utilize NECAP's released items as a formative assessment tool and to help students prepare for the exam format.</p> <p>f. Teachers will analyze NECAP scores to identify areas of strength and weakness in their curriculum.</p> <p>g. Administration will work with teachers in utilizing V-Mathlive to increase student proficiencies in math.</p>
4. Canaan Schools will continue to stay informed on Best Practices in literacy instruction.	<p>a. Teachers will continue to receive professional development opportunities through a consultant or other approved activities.</p> <p>b. Through our membership with the NEKSDC, Karen Kurzman will be hired to up-date new staff members in modern instructional techniques in literacy.</p> <p>c. A team of elementary teachers will attend the Vermont Reads conference during the summer of 2009.</p>

Educational Support System

Goal	Action Steps
1. Student success will be increased as measured by a reduced number of class failures and drop-out rate.	<p>a. Administration and staff will receive training in best practices in ESTs. Principal will revamp the EST programs in both the elementary and the 7-12 to better meet the needs of at-risk students.</p> <p>b. The after school program will be restructured to meet the needs of more of our at risk students.</p> <p>c. Monitoring of student progress by students, parents and staff will continue through the use of the Web2School program.</p> <p>d. Administration and teaching staff will receive training in better meeting the needs of at-risk students (differentiated instruction, PBIS and RTI).</p> <p>e. Administration will continue to work with adult education service providers in meeting student (former) needs through the High School Completion Program.</p> <p>f. Hiring a full-time paraeducator to work directly with the in-coming seventh and eighth grade will be considered.</p>
2. Students will be offered opportunities to move beyond the traditional curriculum through various enrichment activities.	<p>a. CFP funds will be utilized to help students gain access to various summer enrichment programs (ie. Governors' Institute/ Leadership Camp).</p> <p>b. Highly motivated students will have access to over 200 on-line offerings through our membership in the Virtual High School.</p> <p>c. Students will have the opportunity to participate on the Scholar's Bowl team.</p>

<p>3. There will be an increase in communication between parents and administration/teachers at Canaan Schools.</p>	<p>a. Administration will work on getting more parent and student members on Canaan Schools' Steering Committee. b. Volunteers will be utilized as according to School Board policy. c. The School website and Blog will be used as a way to share information between the school and town community. d. The Steering Committee will take a look at and possibly revamp/revitalize Canaan School's Parent/School Compact. e. Administration will support the formation of a PTO.</p>
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Instructional Technology

Goal	Action Steps
<p>1. Students will become familiar with a variety of educational software products.</p>	<p>a. Administration will provide training so that more students and parents will be able to check progress on Web2School, access the Canaan Schools website and b. Students will be encouraged to increase their Math and Computer skills through coursework and after school opportunities. (V-Math Live) c. Design of the school website will be handed over to a class in the Business Technology Department. This will be overseen by the Business teacher and the technology coordinator. d. Industrial technology instructor and administration will work on integrating modern technology (programmable equipment) into the wood shop setting.</p>
<p>2. Technology will be utilized to augment the regular classroom education of students.</p>	<p>a. Federal funds will be used to offer exceptional on-line learning opportunities for students to go beyond the traditional classroom curriculum. b. Teachers will be provided professional development opportunities that increase their knowledge of modern technology and 21st Century learning products.</p>
<p>4. Technology will be available that provides a culture of continuous learning for staff and students and ensures the development of lifelong learners.</p>	<p>a. The school media specialist and technology coordinator will work with administration to acquire out of district funds for upgrades in technology.</p>

Vocational Programs

Goal	Action Steps
<p>1. Enrollment of nontraditional genders will be increased in both vocational programs.</p>	<p>a. Teachers and administrators will work together to identify students who may benefit from access to these programs.</p>
<p>2. Enhanced preparation of students moving from vocational programs directly into workforce.</p>	<p>a. Business technology teacher and administration will look into acquiring software that allows for focused, practical practice in business development and management. b. Administration will continue to work with NEKLS to better integrate vocational and drop-out recovery programs.</p>
<p>3. Increased vocational/ career technical educational (CTE) offerings for high school students.</p>	<p>a. Administration will research the possibility of forming a Hospitality and Tourism program with the Balsams through resource sharing with local NH schools and the North Country Career Center. b. The program currently in place between White Mountain Hospitality Program and the Mountain View Grand Hotel will be observed and possibly used as a model. c. Administration will work with the 45th parallel emergency services group to establish possible LNA, first responder, and EMT courses for high school students. d. Natural Resources, Mechanics, and Early Childhood Education will also be considered.</p>