



Summit Response Teams

Closing the Achievement
Gap



Background

- **Learning Summit: A Crucial Conversation about Closing the Achievement Gap – November 5, 2003**
 - District staff responded to 7 critical questions
- **Community Summit - March 23, 2004**
 - Community members and district staff responded to six questions regarding how we can get the community and parents more involved in closing the achievement gap and helping bridge the financial gap



Summit Response Teams

- Student Learning
 - Capacity Development
 - Community Connectedness
 - Data Driven Decision Making
- Purpose: To develop an action plan based on the focused recommendations of the Crucial Conversation Summit and the input of the Community Summit on Closing the Achievement Gap.



Process

- Analyze the recommendations and areas of criticality
- Identify other similar recommendations and “best practices”
- Develop appropriate strategies, evaluation methods and benchmarks for measuring success
- Establish timelines and identify resources
- Recommend and develop policies as needed
- Report to the Board of Trustees (December)
- The recommendations will become a part of the District Improvement Plan and will help the district focus on district priorities and programmatic decisions over the next three to five years.



Student Learning

- **Facilitator: Michael Novotny**
- **Co-Facilitator: Marilyn Brooks**
- **33 other members including representation from: central and campus administrators, teachers, counselors, and support staff**
- **Three meetings so far: May 17, August 23, September 13**



Student Learning

- **Critical Question: How do we create strong programming for all students while serving students with significant learning needs?**
 - (All students, Bilingual/ESOL, Economically Disadvantaged, Special Education, Gifted)



Capacity Development

- **Facilitator: Jane Ball**
- **Co-Facilitator: Jayne Cantwell**
- **37 other members including central and campus administrators, teachers, counselors, and community members**
- **Three meetings so far: May 14, August 23, September 14**



Capacity Development

- We have divided into 3 groups to develop action plans based on the recommendations for these three crucial questions:
 - 1) How do we establish specific expectations for the team leaders and department chairs, and how do we hold them accountable for teacher instruction and student learning?
 - 2) Should district and school procedures and processes be changed to ensure a match between our most skilled teachers and our students with the greatest needs? If so, how?
 - 3) How would resource allocations need to change to close the achievement gap while maintaining high achievement for all students?

Community Connectedness



- **Facilitator: Tonya Horton**
- **Co-Facilitator: Karla Oliver**
- **31 other members including central and campus administrators, teachers, counselors, and community members**
- **Two meetings so far: May 11 and September 15**

Community Connectedness



- **Critical Questions**

1. **What role can the community play in closing the achievement gap in PISD?**
2. **Who are the community groups that PISD should focus on including as we close the achievement gap?**
3. **What alternative resources (time, talent, & funding) can PISD access as we close the achievement gap?**

Community Connectedness



- **Sub-Committees**

- ✓ **Alternative Resources - This subcommittee is responsible for identifying alternative resources (time, talent & funding) within the community to assist with closing the achievement gap.**
- ✓ **Parental Involvement - This subcommittee is responsible for identifying various ways to increase parental involvement/education that will assist with closing the achievement gap.**
- ✓ **Community Involvement - This subcommittee is responsible for identifying how various community organizations (civic groups, municipal groups, faith based organizations) can be involved in closing the achievement gap.**

Data Driven Decision Making



- **Facilitator: Lisa Long**
- **Co-Facilitator: James Ashby**
- **26 other members including central and campus administrators, teachers, counselors, and community members**
- **Three meetings so far: May 25, July 20, August 23**



Data Driven Decision Making

- **Crucial Question: How can we use our data-collection more effectively to improve student learning and close the achievement gap?**
 - Determine the data points necessary to make decisions.
 - Provide better data and make it more accessible to principals and teachers.



Data Driven Decision Making

- **Crucial Question: How can we ensure timely feedback on needed areas of improvement for students?**
 - **Develop a model for feedback from teachers.**
 - **Establish formative evaluation pieces along with a progression of intervention that matches the immediate need.**

The mission of the Plano Independent School District is to provide an excellent education for all students.

