

SOS Update Report

Created for the District 202 Board of Education

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To: Dr. Eric Witherspoon

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SOS Steering Committee. Representatives from the entire ETHS community, including students, parents, staff, teachers, and administration, have met regularly throughout the year to recommend decisions regarding the continual improvement of SOS. This committee identified the following areas of focus for improvement for next year: Support/Strategies for Teachers, Consequences/Rewards, Flexibility, and Response to Ineffective Supports. The framework for SOS in the fall of 2008 is being presented via the all staff meeting on Wednesday, May 28th, and will continue to be refined through the rest of the year and into the summer.

Survey Results. Throughout the year, we have been listening to the ETHS community to inform our decisions. A part of this listening included surveys this year to students, faculty, parents and the safety staff. Overall, results were encouraging and supportive of the initiative, yet provided ideas for improving the system. A description of these survey results follows this report.

Enrollment for Support. The number of students enrolled in AM support per cycle generally increased during the first semester and then generally decreased during the second semester. Over the course of the year, an average of 1366 students were enrolled each cycle. Of the 2,790 students enrolled at ETHS, 2,384 of them (85%) were enrolled in AM support at some point over the year, which reflects the need for intervention.

AM Support Attendance. Over 2000 students have received additional help this year thanks to AM support. We have received very good reports both from students and teachers regarding the success of AM support for those that attend. Yet over the course of the school year, we have seen daily attendance drop by 15%. As the culture of the school changes, our challenge next year will be to strengthen the system of supports by identifying additional interventions that are successful for more and more students.

Homework Center Attendance. Attendance has been increasing. Currently about 20-25 students make use of the Homework Center each day, in part due to the deans' use of HC as a means to clear MITs. Mr. Cadogan reports that students are focused and making good use of the time. Minimally two tutors are there each day. Mr. Cadogan encourages you to come by and talk to the students and see how the Homework Center functions!

Study Center Attendance. Each of the core department study centers has seen a steady increase in attendance over the course of the year. The Math Department continues to have the highest attendance, currently with about 85 students per day since enforcing that students show their ID. Science has also seen strong growth, growing three-fold since hiring a study center supervisor, now with about 65 students each day. English/History and World Language Centers each have an average of 45 and 15 students per day, respectively. Success in the Study Centers has been evident. In the science center, an entire class began visiting regularly and saw their test grades go up. "Did you make this test easier," they asked the teacher. "No," she told them, "Do you think it might have something to do with your work in the study center three times a week?" One student reported, "I got a 100% on a test for the very first time."

Timeline for Decision Making. The SOS Steering Committee had open forums for staff discussion on May 8th and May 22nd. The committee met May 1st, May 15th, and will meet again May 27th for a retreat. Upcoming dates for sharing and refining during the school year include the May 28th all staff meeting, the May 29th committee meeting, and further presentation and discussions on June 2nd and June 9th. A working group has been assembled for the summer and will hold three public sessions over the summer to share and refine SOS before it is implemented again in the fall.

Summary of SOS Surveys: 2007-08

Several surveys were conducted this year of faculty, safety staff, parents and students to monitor how System of Support is working.

- **Student Survey** – This survey was administered in March 2008 to students in Homebase. In all, 1787 of 2869 students completed surveys with approximately equal numbers responding at each grade level.
- **Faculty Surveys** – In addition to many focus groups, two surveys were administered. One survey was administered early on to gather faculty input about SOS in the first cycle. One hundred sixty-four faculty members completed this online survey. The second survey was administered in December to all faculty to gather input about workload and SOS. In all, 202 of 269 faculty members responded to the workload survey.
- **Parent Survey** – Data were collected from parents on SOS in a survey administered online as part of parent conference sign-up. In total, 374 parents responded to this survey.
- **Safety Staff Survey** – Safety staff were surveyed in November to gather feedback about monitoring student behavior in the halls for SOS and during the day. In all, 19 of approximately 35 safety staff responded.

Student Survey

Findings from the student survey indicated that students would like more one-on-one time and more help from teachers. Students would like to have AM Support offered after school, during lunch or during a free period. Of those enrolled, many students felt that it was helpful while many did not. Many of the students that were not enrolled indicated that they would go if enrolled.

Faculty Surveys

- **Workload Survey** - Teachers felt that their workload is less manageable compared to last year and that workload was having an effect on their performance and emotional health.
- **Cycle 1 Faculty Survey** - Teachers felt that their students were turning in more work and their student work was improving, as were their relationships with students. When asked what aspects were problematic, 83 percent of teachers indicated that students were not showing up. Between 25 percent and 33 percent indicated that there was not enough time during AM Support, students were confused by the SOS process, and students were not prepared for AM Support sessions. When asked how they spend their time in AM Support, teachers indicated that they spent most of their time on course content and/or skills (as opposed to organization, behavior or motivation) .Teachers also indicated that they get SOS information in a timely fashion, the SOS system was easy to use, and the SOS information was accurate.

Parent Survey

Of the parents who indicated that their child had been assigned to AM Support sometime this year (n=205), 62 percent responded that AM Support had been helpful for their child. A majority of the parents said that communication about AM Support had been good or excellent but fair to good with regard to the Study Centers.

Safety Survey

The majority of the safety staff that responded indicated that student behavior this year was good and that the most problematic time in the morning was between 8:15 and 8:30 a.m. A majority felt that faculty assist with monitoring students in the hallways a little to some of the time.