

HAMILTON COUNTY JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

PLANNED IMPROVEMENT FOR THE SCHOOL AND DISTRICT

Based on your school's improvement plan, your school and district are providing information on areas of success and areas for planned improvement below and/or on a separate sheet.

During the 2007-2008 school year, Hamilton County Junior/Senior High School will celebrate seven complete years of operation as a grades 7-12 learning institution. Many exciting and rewarding educational experiences have taken place during this time frame. The students, faculty and staff are still very proud of the facility and students are continuing to receive a high quality education. With our school having modern science labs, a state-of-the-art media center, a multi-purpose commons area and various computer labs, and mobile computer labs our students benefit from an excellent learning environment.

As noted on the school report card, students at Hamilton County Junior/Senior High School demonstrated both strengths and weaknesses on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test and the Prairie State Achievement Exam.

During the spring of 2008 the ISAT was given to students in grade seven in the areas of science, reading and math; at the eighth grade level students were tested in the areas of reading, math, and writing.

On the 2008 ISAT, Hamilton County seventh grade students performed well in Reading. There were only 1% of our students at the academic warning. Seventy-five and two tenths percent of our seventh graders either met or exceeded standards. The percentage of seventh grade students across the state who met or exceeded standards was seventy-seven and seven tenths percent. In Math, there were 1% of our students at the academic warning. Eighty-four and two tenths percent of our seventh graders either met or exceeded standards as compared with a state average of eighty and four tenths percent. In Science, there were only 3.0% our students at academic warning. Eighty-five and one tenth percent of our seventh graders either met or exceeded standards as compared with a state average of seventy-nine and one tenth percent.

Hamilton County eighth graders scored well in the areas of reading and mathematics. In Reading, 1.0% of our students fell in the academic warning category, and 81.9% of our students met or exceeded standards as compared to a state average of eighty-one and four tenths percent. In Mathematics, only nine tenths percent of our students were at academic warning, and 81.1 % of our students met or exceeded standards as compared to a state average of eighty and four tenths percent. In Writing, 15% of our students fell in the academic warning category, and 40% of our students met or exceeded standards as compared to a state average of sixty-three percent.

Hamilton County eleventh grade students scored below the state average on the PSAE in reading, mathematics, science, and writing. In reading, 33.8% of our students met or exceeded standards, compared to a state average of 53.3%. On the mathematics section, 35.1% of our students tested met or exceeded standards as opposed to the 53% state average. In science, 33.8% of our students met or exceeded standards, compared to the state average of 51.2%. In writing, 31.3% of our students met or exceeded standards as compared to the state average of 56%.

The College Readiness Report for the Hamilton County Senior High School denotes scores that are less positive than the PSAT. This report reflects the achievement of eleventh grade students in the academic areas of English, mathematics, reading, and science. It is designed to measure the skills needed for success in first year college coursework. Hamilton County students scored a 16.8 in English compared to a state average of 19.6, a 17.7 in mathematics compared to a state average of 20.3, a 17.0 in reading compared to a state average of 20.0, a score of 18.0 in science compared to a state average of 20.1, and a composite of 17.6 compared to a national average of 20.1.

For the 2008-09 school year, the faculty has chosen the following two goals that will be our focus for school improvement during the next year: 1. All students will improve their ability to apply math skills across the curriculum. 2. All students will increase their reading comprehension and writing skills across the curriculum.

The faculty and staff will continue its effort to more closely aligning the junior/senior high curriculum to the Illinois Learning Standards. Teachers will spend time examining and choosing outside resources that will better prepare students in taking various standardized tests.

The faculty and staff will set up quarterly department meetings to evaluate student progress and discuss curricular transitions. A copy of the agenda will be submitted to the principal for each meeting.

The writing intensive course will be re-evaluated by the English department to determine if changes are necessary as related to the State Graduation Requirements (P.A. 94-0676 (SB 575)).

Writing is an area of concern for our entire school district; therefore, writing workshops will be encouraged for any staff member who would like to attend.

In addition, for the 2008-2009 school year we will implement (mandatory for all juniors) the WIN Curriculum (Internet based Work Keys Training), which will be a semester long course. Also, more information needs to be made available to students and parents as to the benefits of higher scores on the College Readiness Testing or the ACT.