Gather, Report & Implement:

Building an Elementary School Counseling Program in Central Falls, Rhode Island

ASCA Conference 2012

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History

- Challenging community demographics
- District known nationally for firing all staff
- No school counselors had ever been hired at the elementary level
- Was awarded a million dollar ESSCP grant which enabled building of an elementary school counseling program from the ground up
Grant Goals and Objectives

- Reduce school counselor-to-student ratio
- Decrease discipline referrals
- Implement a comprehensive elementary school counseling program
- Establish a school counseling data management system
- Provide substantive professional development
Project Perspectives

- Think in terms of K-12 vertical alignment for the school counseling program
- Stress personalization as program priority
- Include all district counselors in grant project professional development workshops
- Provide training, develop templates and create systems that enable school counselors to adopt data-based decision making in their practice
Kindergarten Data

Kindergartners At Or Above Benchmark

- Assessment Period 1
- Assessment Period 2

Kindergartners Below Benchmark

- Assessment Period 1
- Assessment Period 2
Kindergarten Data

Percent Kindergarten Students Reading Below Benchmark

- 2010-2011: 90%
- 2011-2012: 60%
Quiet Voices in the hallway. Our reindeer.

Excellent line this morning.

Walking quietly, eyes forward in a straight line.

Walking in a Straight line.

Great job, waiting in line.

Ms. Haveles!

Class!

Was Caught!
Our goal!

Pudding Party and a movie!
Pre School Data

Student tries to work out problems with others before going to teacher
Arami was as brave as a bull when his hippo was injured.

Katherine was walking quietly with her arms to the side, eyes averted. Great job, Mr. Rossi!
Pre-School Data

**Students who would respond to a bully by "hitting the other person"**

**Students who would respond to a bully by "acting mean back"**
Pre School Data

Total Number of Office Discipline Referrals

- 2009-2010: 400
- 2010-2011: 100
- 2011-2012: 50
Choo Choo!

Our train

Was Caught
Our goal is a Pajama Day!

Our goal is a movie with popcorn.

Our goal is a Pizza Party!
5th Grade Data

Office Discipline Referrals for Disrespect

- 2010-2011
- 2011-2012
Career Day made me think more seriously about what type of job/career I want to have when I grow up.
Robertson Racers

Responsible

Respectful

Ready
calmly
quiet
straight
Do you think you have made new friends that you might not have made if you weren’t in this lunch group?

I know what Robertson behavior expectations are
5th Grade Data

Number of Students Schoolwide with Perfect Attendance

Number of Students Tardy Each Month
Elementary School Data

Attendance during NECAP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Absences</th>
<th>Tardies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Elementary School Data

Average Absences of students in program

Pre BOAT Program

Post BOAT Program
Sailing Away with Perfect Attendance
Elementary School Data

Do You Feel Better About Coming To School?

Is class work easier since completing homework and staying organized?
Elementary School Data

Did you feel motivated to come to school during the NECAP testing?

Did playing the Wii during recess motivate you to come to school?
Project Successes

- Successfully meeting grant goals and objectives
- Creating a data-driven culture in school counseling program K-12
- Winning SPARCrî awards
- Keeping the elementary school counselors after grant funding ended
Lessons Learned

- Importance of educating principals of role of elementary school counselor
- Start small with changes such classroom curriculum; success builds more access
- Data can provide objective perspective during times of leadership change
- Data on value of school counseling program can maintain the position of the school counselor!
Recommendations for Achieving Similar Results

- Secure buy-in from administrators for implementing ASCA Model
- Build awareness among building principal, teachers, and other staff about valuable role of school counselor
- Arrange for professional development training on effectively using data
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