

ABINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
ABINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA

SUPERINTENDENT'S
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

REGARDING: **Technology for Data Warehouse**

Section: **Superintendent's
Committees**

Effective Date: October 2009

Reissued: See Also:

Background

The Abington School District has demonstrated a long and sustained commitment to continuous improvement with the consistent goal of improving student achievement. This commitment has included the collection and analysis of achievement data from standardized tests, the PSSA, curriculum based assessments, and other measures. To further identify root causes of variation in student achievement, the staff has also collected and analyzed data related to various factors including attendance and student behavior. All of these analyses have been used to formulate action plans with specific objectives focused on the goal of student achievement.

In 2004, as a result of analyzing data for each of the NCLB disaggregated groups, the district identified concerns in the achievement profiles of these groups. To respond to this identified concern, the district was proactive and joined with the University of Pennsylvania and 14 other suburban school districts in the greater Delaware Valley in the establishment of the Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium (DVMSAC). With the information gained through this consortium, the following year the district established an Opportunities to Learn Task Force. Chaired by Dr. Amy Sichel, Superintendent of Schools, the Task Force was charged with collecting and analyzing appropriate data and formulating cost-effective strategies for the purpose of encouraging and supporting broader numbers of students to achieve academic proficiency and success in rigorous academic courses. Operationally, the task force committee worked in five areas: Data, Student Placement, Student Support, Professional Development, and Parental Involvement.

In its final report, the Opportunities to Learn Data Sub-Committee stated that the process of gathering data from a variety of sources is "challenging." The committee learned that, to collect information on the "whole" student, it was necessary to access the district's mainframe computer; school and student records; databases kept by supervisors, classroom teachers, and curriculum specialists; summer school records; computer-managed instruction records, etc. Although the work was straightforward, it was time consuming and involved

many staff members. With this effort, the result was a piece-meal “snapshot” of student performance over time and did not result in a system that could be used to continue to monitor student progress in attendance, behavior, and academic achievement. This experience led the sub-committee to the following recommendation: “Optimally, all needed demographic, student placement, and student achievement information should be accessible from one place and easily transferable to an analytical tool. An efficient, comprehensive data management system is needed.”

In developing the school district’s Strategic Plan to be implemented 2008-2014, the members of the Technology team considered the recommendations that had been generated by the sub-committees of the Opportunities to Learn Task Force. This led to the identified technology goal to develop a comprehensive plan for the use of technology and to the specific strategy: “Through the use of technology, we will promote data-driven decision making by efficiently and effectively managing student information and databases.”

Committee Charge

The Abington School District Technology for Data-Driven Decision Making Committee is established to:

- A. Review the needs identified by the Data Sub-Committee of the Opportunities to Learn Task Force and develop a rubric to objectively evaluate data warehouse software
- B. Identify available products that appear to have the potential of addressing the identified needs
- C. Investigate available products by reviewing literature that describes and/or evaluates the product, attending product demonstrations, conducting site visits to school districts where the products are in use, contacting other knowledgeable and reliable sources
- D. Investigate the process and cost of developing an in-house model
- E. Determine the model that best suits the district’s needs
- F. If appropriate, develop a plan to pilot the program
- G. Conduct a Cost-Benefit Analysis of each system that is being considered for adoption
- H. Use all of the information collected to prepare a recommendation to present to the Superintendent of Schools

Committee Membership

Dr. Ann Bacon, Co-Chairperson	Director of Curriculum
Dr. Lorraine Trollinger, Co-Chairperson	Principal, Abington Junior High School
Ms. Susanne Alfonso	Director of Human Resources
James Allmond	Student Representative
Marquis Anderson	Student Representative
Mr. Howard Baxter	Supervisor of Music K-12 and Coordinator of Elementary Art
Ms. Deepika Bunjun	Teacher, McKinley Elementary School
Ms. Nicole Callahan	Teacher, Abington Senior High School
Mr. Dave Daubenspeck	Business Chairperson, Abington Senior High School
Mr. Robert DeAngelo	Network Coordinator
Mr. James Etlen	Assistant Principal, Copper Beech Elementary School
Mr. Laurence Goldberg	Director of Technology and Telecommunications
Ms. Jeanne Hanna	Supervisor of Special Education
Mr. Ernest Johnson	Assistant Principal, Abington Senior High School
Mr. George Kaufmann	Teacher, Highland Elementary School
Mr. Robert Kelly	Assistant Principal, McKinley Elementary School and Coordinator of Special Education
Mr. Jonathan Kovalski	Assistant Principal, Abington Junior High School
Mr. Christopher Lionetti	Business Manager
Raymond McGarry, Esquire	Board of School Directors Representative
Mr. George Mehler	Parent Representative
Dr. James Melchor	Assistant Director of Curriculum
Dr. Kevin Osborne	Principal, Roslyn Elementary School
Dr. Mark Pellico	Supervisor of Pupil Services
Dr. Steven Portman	Teacher, Copper Beech Elementary School
Mr. James Rizzuto	Mathematics Chairperson, Abington Senior High School
Ms. Julianne Schlisman	Social Studies Chairperson, Abington Junior High School
Mr. Bradley Schneider	Teacher/Technology Coach, Abington Junior and Senior High Schools
Mr. Herbert Stahl	IBM Systems Coordinator
Mrs. Michele R. Tinsman	Board of School Directors Representative
Mr. Rodney Tucker	Parent Representative
Mr. Ryan Williams	AEA Representative

Committee Timeline

November – December 2009	Tasks A and B
January – February 2010	Tasks C and D

March – May 2010

Tasks E, F, G, and H

June 2010

Final Report to Superintendent