

ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN - ACADEMY OF STRATEGIC LEARNING

Introduction

The Academy of Strategic Learning was founded on the belief that we need to develop a curriculum that will reach our at risk population while maintaining high expectations for learning. The ASLCS uses a standards based curriculum aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks which incorporates: (1) use of teaching strategies that will reach all students in an inclusive environment; (2) use of a curriculum based on relevance to life's experiences; and (3) an accountability system that allows the students the opportunity for success. Academic success is measured by proficiency in state and district standards in the subject areas of mathematics, science and technology, language arts and social studies. It is essential that the students take responsibility for their own academic and social growth. Students will be given the guidance need to pursue their educational endeavors and to take ownership of their failures in the past.

The cornerstone of the accountability plan for the Academy of Strategic Learning Public Charter School is based on three areas: student performance, organizational viability and alignment of school operation with founding principles and practices. The Academy is driven by a passion for excellence and attention to the quality of our program for at risk students. We hold high expectations for all learners.

The pedagogical philosophy of the school is based on the educational approach emulated by the teachings of William Glasser. It is believed that educating students through a lead-managing model will enable the students to produce quality work.

The Academy of Strategic Learning will use a system of performance standards based on the school's integrated curriculum framework as a basis of measuring student progress. Each student will have his/her abilities assessed before entering the Academy. His/her assessment will provide baseline data for measuring student progress. This assessment will include a student's earlier standardized testing, an analysis of student work, behavioral challenges, and psycho-social functioning and other relevant data. This data would be inclusive of attendance records, documentation of prior school history, achievement scores, student strengths and weaknesses, and cognitive profile.

Students at the Academy will exercise leadership skills, become public speakers, have an understanding of the relevance of education in their academic and social development, and to have their needs met in positive and healthy ways to become productive members of the community. Students will engage in community service learning that is integrated into the curriculum delivery model. The Academy of Strategic Learning is based on quality education. Students will be required to relearn information until mastery has been obtained. Content/skill assessments are administered, at mid term, and at the end of each school year. Students who have not obtained mastery evidenced by a minimum "C" average will be required to attend

tutoring sessions that take place at the end of the school day or at a time that allows the student to continue to participate in after school activities, an internship or a job in the community.

Yearly, academic data will be used to evaluate program performance through analysis of scores on standardized tests. Each student's progress as determined by the Individualized Learning Plan will be assessed quarterly to determine overall student performance. A system has been designed and implemented using rubrics to evaluate critical thinking skills in curriculum areas based on performance standards in accordance with the mission of the school.

The Academy of Strategic Learning Public Charter School incorporates a curriculum that emphasizes social development and responsibility. Students set goals based on self-evaluation and take responsibility for learning. The Academy applies the philosophy of Choice Theory and Reality Therapy into the social development curriculum. This model is appropriate for students at risk for school failure because they need to reconnect with the educational system in order to engage in learning. A level system for behavioral management incorporates personal responsibility and accountability. A variety of youth development practices are incorporated into the curriculum to teach and reinforce pro-social interpersonal skills that complement Choice theory and Reality Therapy objectives.

Student Attainment of Academic Achievement

Goal 1: All students at the Academy of Strategic Learning Charter School will become proficient in the use of the English Language.

Progress Indicators

Measure 1: Seventy-five percent of students enrolled at the Academy of Strategic Learning Public Charter School for one or more years will perform in the "needs improvement" or above level on English Language Arts MCAS Tests.

Measure 2: Those students who failed to reach proficiency on the grade 10 MCAS English Language Arts Test will show continuous progress toward proficiency in grades 11 and 12 as evidenced by the Individual Learning Plan (ILP).

Measure 3: Eighty percent of students enrolled at the Academy of Strategic Learning Charter School for one or more years, will perform in the 15 to 20 (proficient) ranges on the district writing assessment.

Goal 2: All students at the Academy of Strategic Learning Charter School will achieve competency in the area of understanding and application of mathematical computation and problem solving and scientific inquiry.

Progress Indicators

Measure 1: Seventy-five percent of students enrolled at the Academy of Strategic Learning Public Charter School for one or more years will perform in the “needs improvement” or above level on the grade 10 MCAS Mathematics and Science Tests.

Measure 2: Those students who do achieve proficient on the MCAS Math and Science Tests will show continuous improvement in grades 11 and 12 toward proficiency as evidenced by the ILP.

Organizational Viability

Goal 1: The Academy of Strategic Learning Charter School will maintain strong organizational viability by demonstrating district, parent and community support.

Progress Indicators

Measure 1: Using a school culture survey distributed to staff of the Academy of Strategic Learning Public Charter School, eighty percent of the staff will report satisfied or above in regards to staff development opportunities, board and director communication and overall effectiveness of the program.

Measure 2: Using a school culture survey, distributed to parents of students attending the Academy of Strategic Learning Public Charter School, seventy five percent of respondents will respond satisfied or above in regards to academic programming, staff selection, and communication and student progress.

Measure 3: Using a yearly evaluation instrument distributed to selected district representation, seventy five percent of respondents will comment in the satisfied or above range regarding effective school/community communication at the Academy.

Goal 2: The Academy of Strategic Learning Charter School will maintain strong organizational viability by demonstrating sound fiscal procedures and responsible decision-making.

Progress Indicators

Measure 1: Yearly financial statements will show that the Academy is fiscally sound and has adequate financial resources.

Measure 2: Annual approved budget for each school year will show appropriations that will ensure effective school programming aligned with school's charter.

Measure 3: Audited financial statements will be unqualified, have no material findings and will demonstrate that the school is responsible and fiscally sound with available resources.

Alignment with Charter

Goal 1: Academy of Strategic Learning Charter School students will demonstrate growth in work place competencies.

Progress Indicators

Measure 1: All students will complete quarterly journals reflecting on work-related experiences through internships, work-study and job-shadowing. Participation will be documented by completion of the Massachusetts Work-Based Learning Plan, weekly time sheets and/or visits to sites by the Outreach Coordinator.

Measure 2: Any student who is not in an internship or work placement will complete a program of study in Career Exploration at the ASL during internship/work hours.

Measure 3: Using an end of year evaluation, 80% of providers will report increased student achievement regarding the nine workplace competencies.

Goal 2: Academy of Strategic Learning Charter School students will take responsibility for their own academic and social growth.

Progress Indicators

Measure 1: Yearly, sixty percent of students at the Academy of Strategic Learning Public Charter School will complete and receive a grade of 3 or better on his/her portfolio. The assessment is based on a rubric system that divides achievement into four categories: Exemplary (4), Proficient (3), Basic (2) and Needs Improvement (1).

Measure 2: Yearly, all students will complete an Individualized Learning Plan in collaboration with the students' teachers, guidance staff, and parents/guardians. Eighty percent of the students will successfully accomplish the ILP goals by the end of the school year.

Measure 3: Eighty percent of the time, students will utilize reality therapy strategies for personal advocacy and problem resolution as measured by discipline records and staff/student self reports.

Measure 4: Using a pre and post standardized social development assessment, students will report increased competence in self regulation and self management skills.

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