

**POINT O'VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
YEAR-ROUND SCHOOL
YEAR-ONE EVALUATION**

VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Department of Accountability
2512 George Mason Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

August 2005

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POINT O'VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
YEAR-ROUND SCHOOL
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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On January 13, 2004, the School Board approved Point O'View's application to become a Year-Round School (YRS). The Point O'View Year-Round School program began in July 2004, with enrichment and remediation intersessions offered in October 2004, January 2005, and April 2005. Arrowhead Elementary School became the "sister site" for the YRS program at Point O'View. This year-one evaluation examines the implementation of the program and progress toward meeting program goals.

FINDINGS

- Implementation of the YRS program at Point O'View mirrored the School Board approved time line. The lessons learned from planning and implementing four other year-round programs appeared to increase the efficiency of implementation-related tasks and facilitated the successful implementation of YRS at Point O'View in 2004-2005.
- The student opt-in and opt-out process was followed but resulted in a net loss of 72 students from Point O'View. As a result of rezoning and the student opt-out process, Point O'View operated at 19 percent below capacity in 2004-2005, and a smaller percentage of the student body participated in the free and reduced meal program when compared to 2003-2004.
- Class size averages for all grades decreased from the previous school year and were below the school division averages at each grade level.
- The staff opt-out plan mirrored the plan approved by the School Board. Of the staff members, 78.2 percent returned for the first year of YRS, and only six staff members left because of the switch from a traditional to year-round calendar. Teachers at Point O'View had a higher average number of years teaching experience, a higher percentage had advanced degrees, and a higher percentage were new to the division in 2004-2005 compared to 2003-2004.
- School-based staff development activities were well-organized, consistent with the approved training objectives, and reflected the staff's attention to continuous improvement. Only 17

percent of the teachers at Point O'View indicated that the year-round school calendar did not allow for participation in college classes, professional activities, or other kinds of training.

- The Year-Round School program implemented at Point O'View Elementary School mirrored the Board-approved plan with the exception of the number and structure of intersession classes offered. The proposed three-tier intersession structure was consolidated into one tier of remediation and one tier of enrichment, and the proposed two-week sessions were separated into two one-week sessions for the fall and winter intersessions.
- Survey results revealed that a majority of students, parents, and staff felt the YRS program helped students learn better and increased academic achievement, and a substantial percentage of intersession students affirmed that they felt the intersession would help them learn better in school.
- Improved academic achievement was evidenced by increases in SOL passing rates in English and science in grade three and English: Writing in grade five. However, all of the passing rates for the fifth-grade SOL tests were lower at Point O'View when compared to the division passing rates for elementary schools, and the school's passing rates for four of the fifth-grade SOL tests were lower in 2004-2005 when compared to 2003-2004.
- Improved student attendance was evidenced by increased student attendance for five of the ten months, and a School Board award for overall most improved attendance during the 2004-2005 school year. Point O'View also received the Outstanding Performance award and Most Improved Attendance award for the month of December. One hundred percent of the staff agreed that attendance had improved.
- For any given intersession, more than 40 percent of the school population was referred during 2004-2005 for remediation. A majority of the intersession referrals were for remediation (74%). The attendance rates for the remediation classes decreased for each consecutive intersession, ranging from 75.5 percent for Intersession 1 to 59.9 percent for Intersession 3, and were lowest among fifth-grade students. With the exception of the first intersession, attendance rates were better for enrichment classes than remediation classes. The attendance rates for the enrichment classes ranged from 65.7 percent to 79.2 percent.
- Students and teachers expressed satisfaction with their experiences in the intersessions. More than 90 percent of the students and teachers indicated that they liked the intersession that they attended or taught. In addition, approximately 97 percent of the staff completing the year-end survey rated the success of increasing students' opportunities for education through remediation and enrichment as a 4 or 5 on a five-point scale. More than 90 percent of the staff expressed agreement with respect to the benefits of the intersessions.
- More than 90 percent of the staff at Point O'View reported that the YRS program was fostering positive attitudes toward learning among students. A large majority of staff members perceived that students were more enthusiastic about school, more motivated, and better behaved. A reduction in the number of discipline referrals in 2004-2005 also supported the perception that students were better behaved.

- More than 90 percent of the staff also reported experiencing less burnout and fatigue on the YRS calendar.
- The total projected amount of one-time purchases and fiscal year 2004-2005 costs amounted to \$154,985 for the preparation and one year of YRS operation. The actual expenditures for preparation and one year of YRS operation were \$230,178 representing a difference of approximately \$75,193.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue to market the YRS program at Point O'View to students from Arrowhead. Monitor the student opt-in and opt-out numbers and encourage students to opt-in to Point O'View from Arrowhead to establish a balance in the enrollment for both schools.
- Analyze 2004-2005 Standards of Learning and local assessment data to determine ways to improve academic achievement that meets or exceeds division averages.
- Identify methods to increase student attendance at the intersession classes.
- Expand the remediation offerings to include areas besides English and mathematics depending on the identified need of students.
- Continue to monitor students' academic progress to determine areas that show signs of improvement and areas that indicate need for referring additional students to intersessions, staff development for teachers, and/or assistance from central office curriculum coordinators.
- Continue the year-round school program at Point O'View through implementation and the evaluation cycle.