

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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On January 13, 2004, the School Board approved Point O'View Elementary School's application to become a Year-Round School (YRS). The Point O'View YRS program began in July 2004, with Arrowhead Elementary School as the "sister site" for the YRS program. A year-one evaluation was presented to the School Board in August of 2005. During the 2005-06 school year, Kempsville Meadows was added as a second sister site for the YRS program at Point O'View. The year-two evaluation was presented in October of 2006. This year-three evaluation focused on the actions taken in response to the year-two recommendations, the continued implementation process and program changes during the three evaluation years, the effectiveness of the program in meeting the YRS program goals, and the costs associated with the YRS program.

FINDINGS

- All four recommendations for the year-two evaluation were addressed by the leadership and staff at Point O'View during the third year of the program. The school continued to operate on a year-round calendar, utilized marketing and communication efforts to increase the number of students opting-in to the program, provided strategies for improving student achievement, and facilitated parental participation in the school program.
- Over the three-year implementation period, Point O'View experienced a 37 percent decline in student enrollment when comparing the number of students enrolled during the year prior to implementing the YRS program to the third year of the program's operation. The largest decline in student enrollment occurred during the first year of the program when the enrollment decreased from 731 to 554 students. During the third year of the program, 459 students were enrolled at Point O'View.
- Compared to the year prior to implementation, the percentage of special education students and Hispanic students enrolled at Point O'View in 2006-07 increased by more than 4 percentage points. During this same period of time, the percentage of African-American students decreased by 5 percentage points, and the percentage of economically disadvantaged students decreased by 11 percentage points.
- For each of the three years of the program, the number of students opting-out of the YRS program at Point O'View has been larger than the number of students opting-in to the

program. However, the imbalance decreased from the first year to the third year with more students opting-in to the YRS program at Point O'View during the third year of the program.

- During the 2006-07 school year, Point O'View and both of the sister school sites (i.e., Arrowhead and Kempsville Meadows) were operating below their building capacity. In 2006-07, Point O'View was operating approximately 28 percent below capacity, Arrowhead was operating 14 percent below capacity, and Kempsville Meadows was approximately 2 percent below capacity.
- The size of the staff at Point O'View decreased over time with the decrease in student enrollment. The gender and racial/ethnic distributions of the school staff remained relatively consistent throughout the program implementation, and no staff members opted-out of Point O'View because of the YRS calendar in year three.
- The 2006-07 year-round school calendar allocated 184 instructional days for students, and no instructional days were lost to inclement weather during the year. The calendar also included a fall intersession that was ten days in length, a winter intersession that was five days in length, and a spring intersession that was ten days in length.
- Point O'View has maintained Full Accreditation status over the implementation period based on the results of Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments.
- The percentage of students retained in grade decreased from 3.6 percent to 2.0 percent when comparing the retention rate observed in the year prior to implementing the YRS program to the third year of the program's operation.
- During the most recent administration of the Stanford 10 Achievement Test, students at Point O'View performed above average on all of the subtests and posted higher percentile ranks than the division as a whole on all of the testing areas except Prewriting. However, the percentile rank earned by Point O'View students in the area of Prewriting was equal to the percentile rank observed for the division as a whole.
- Standards of Learning passing rates in the area of Language Arts (i.e., reading and writing) increased over time at each grade level except third grade. Student performance on the mathematics SOL test also increased over time at each grade level tested. Third-grade English and fifth-grade science were the only areas to evidence slight declines in performance when comparing SOL passing rates prior to implementing the YRS calendar (2003-04) to the passing rates observed during the most recent testing period (2006-07). An examination of SOL passing rates by student subgroup revealed several areas in which the performance of African-American students and students with disabilities decreased from spring 2004 to spring 2007.
- More than 82 percent of the staff rated their success at increasing student achievement a 4 or 5 on a five-point scale. The percentage of parents reporting that their child learned better with the YRS calendar increased each year during the implementation of the YRS program at Point O'View. A majority of students indicated that they learned better with the YRS calendar, but the percentage reported in the third year of the program was lower than in the first year of the program. The declining level of agreement among students was

accompanied by an increase in the percentage of students expressing uncertainty as to the impact of the YRS calendar on their learning when comparing results from the first year of the program to the third year of the program.

- Evidence of improved student attendance included School Board recognition for outstanding attendance in December 2006 and higher monthly attendance rates for seven of the ten calendar months when comparing rates from the year prior to the program's implementation to the third year of the program. The annual attendance rate at Point O'View also evidenced a slight increase when comparing the rate observed prior to implementing the program to the rate observed during the third year of the program. More than 82 percent of the staff indicated that the school was successful in increasing student attendance.
- Point O'View increased opportunities for education through remediation and enrichment and employed several strategies to maximize student attendance for the intersessions. Forty-six remediation classes and 19 enrichment classes were offered in 2006-07. The percentage of students referred to each of the three intersessions ranged between 49 and 61 percent, and between 66 and 71 percent attended the intersession to which they were referred. An examination of the unduplicated count of students referred to the intersessions over the year revealed that approximately 100 percent of Point O'View's students were referred to at least one remediation or enrichment class during the school year, and approximately 81 percent attended at least one remediation or enrichment class.
- The percentage of students referred to the fall and winter intersession for remediation in the third year of the program was lower than the percentage referred for remediation during the first year of the program. The percentage of students referred to the spring intersession for remediation was higher during the third year of the program when compared to the first year, but lower than the rate observed in the second year. The referral rates for enrichment intersessions were similar over the three years of the program.
- Students and teachers expressed positive attitudes toward the intersessions offered during the 2006-07 school year. Ninety percent of the staff indicated that the school was successful at increasing opportunities for education through remediation and enrichment.
- Point O'View staff made progress in fostering positive attitudes toward learning as evidenced by a reduction in discipline referrals when comparing the percentage of students referred in the year prior to implementing the program to the third year of the program. The percentage of staff indicating that students behaved better with the YRS calendar also increased slightly over time with more than 80 percent of the staff reporting that students behaved better as a result of the year-round school calendar. The percentage of parents indicating that they would recommend the YRS program at Point O'View to other parents increased each year of the program's implementation and was approximately 90 percent by the third year.
- During the third year of the program's implementation, approximately 88 percent of the staff indicated that they felt less stress and experienced less fatigue, and 77 percent indicated that they had improved their attendance. A multi-site comparison of staff responses to these same items revealed that a larger percentage of the Point O'View staff expressed agreement to these items in the third year of the program compared to the staff at the other year-round schools in the division.

- More than 84 percent of the staff believed that the school has been successful in fostering positive attitudes toward learning and large percentages of the staff indicated that the community, students, and staff supported the YRS program during its third year of implementation.
- Several suggestions were made for improving the YRS program at Point O'View. A few students indicated that they wanted additional or longer breaks, and a number of students expressed an interest in longer physical education periods. The most frequently occurring suggestion among parents was to extend the YRS to the middle school level. Among staff, the most often mentioned improvement concerned the organization and structure of breaks and the need for a planning day prior to each intersession.
- The total projected amount for fiscal year 2006-07 was \$133,523, while the actual expenditures of YRS operation at Point O'View totaled \$168,114 representing a difference of approximately \$34,591. Costs were less than projected for communication and staff development. There were costs incurred for transportation that were not included in the original proposal (i.e., bus operating costs and expenses related to noncontracted days).
- Point O'View received the National Year-Round School of Merit Award from the National Association of Year-Round Education (NAYRE) in 2006-07.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue the year-round school program at Point O'View Elementary School.
- Continue to monitor students' performance and implement strategies for improving performance, particularly among African-American students and students with disabilities. Strategies specific to grade three English and grade five science should also be implemented and targeted to all students.
- Increase the percentage of the school population being referred for remediation during the fall and winter intersessions in an effort to provide intervention earlier in the school year.
- Continue to market the YRS program at Point O'View with the goal of achieving a balance between the number of students opting-in and opting-out of the program.