

SUMMER SCHOOL: PROGRAM REFINEMENT EVALUATION

VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Department of Research, Evaluation, and Assessment
2512 George Mason Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

September 2008

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The purpose of this program refinement evaluation is to comply with School Board Policy 6-26, adopted by the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach on September 5, 2007. According to the policy, “Existing programs will be evaluated based on an annual Program Evaluation Schedule which will be developed by the Program Evaluation Committee and approved by the School Board annually.” On January 22, 2008 the School Board approved the 2007-2008 Program Evaluation Schedule, in which the Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS) Summer School Program was recommended for a Program Refinement Evaluation. Based on School Board Policy 6-26, for programs scheduled for a Program Refinement Evaluation, the Department of Research, Evaluation, and Assessment will “assist program staff in defining measurable goals and objectives, as well as linkages with activities and outcomes.” According to the policy, a Program Refinement Evaluation report focusing on the outcomes of this process and recommendations regarding continued evaluation of the programs will be presented to the superintendent and School Board.

RESULTS OF PROGRAM REFINEMENT EVALUATION PROCESS

- After a review of the division’s summer school programs during the program refinement evaluation process, it was evident that multiple programs with varying purposes and target audiences are offered at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.
- A committee of representatives from departments involved in overseeing summer school and program evaluation staff met to develop goals and measurable objectives for the summer school programs and discuss the ongoing summer school evaluation plan for 2008-2009.
- The stated purposes of the summer school programs with the largest student enrollments served as the basis for the development of goals and measurable objectives for the summer school program.
- Changes proposed by the administration during the 2007-2008 school year for the division’s summer school programs, including a change in the delivery model for academic support, were a central focus of the program refinement evaluation process and impacted the development of goals and measurable objectives.

- Goals and measurable objectives were developed for the programs with the largest student enrollments. These included the current Elementary School Remedial Summer Program, the current Middle School Summer Program for Core Subject Areas, the current High School Summer Course Program for Course Repeats, and the High School Summer Course Program for Acceleration.
- Measurable objectives were also developed for the new model of academic support which focuses on providing support during the school year. This model will be implemented at the middle school level in 2008-2009.
- The first goal developed for the summer school programs was to “Ensure that students who receive academic support, either during the school year or during summer school, demonstrate academic success.” Multiple measurable objectives for elementary, middle, and high schools were derived based on this goal.
- The second goal developed for summer school was to “Provide high school students with the opportunity to accelerate learning through successful completion of summer school course offerings.” Measurable objectives for high school were derived based on this goal.
- Baseline data addressing the new goals and objectives were not available at the time this report was completed. Baseline data based on the 2008 summer school session will be collected and analyzed during 2008-2009.
- A proposed evaluation plan for elementary, middle, and high school summer school programs was developed, as well as a plan for evaluating the middle school model of delivering academic support during the school year. This plan included the evaluation questions that would be the focus of the comprehensive evaluation in 2008-2009 and the planned data collection process for evaluating the program goals and objectives at each school level.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Use performance data from students attending summer school in summer 2008 as baseline data to set performance targets for the summer school program objectives during 2008-2009. Assess the extent to which these performance targets were met in a comprehensive evaluation of the 2009 summer school session. (Department of Research, Evaluation, and Assessment; Department of Curriculum and Instruction; Department of School Administration)
- Conduct a comprehensive evaluation during 2008-2009, focused on both implementation and academic outcomes, of the following summer school programs: Elementary School Remedial Summer Program, Middle School Summer Program for Core Subject Areas (if there is sufficient enrollment), High School Summer Course Program for Course Repeats, and High School Summer Course Program for Acceleration. (Department of Research, Evaluation, and Assessment)

- Conduct an evaluation during 2008-2009 focused on implementation of the new middle school program model where academic support is delivered throughout the school year. (Department of Research, Evaluation, and Assessment)
- Use outcome data for the middle school program during 2008-2009, where academic support is delivered throughout the school year, to set performance targets for the program objectives for this model of service delivery. (Department of Research, Evaluation, and Assessment; Department of Curriculum and Instruction; Department of School Administration)
- Conduct an evaluation during 2009-2010 focused on outcomes of the middle school program where academic support is delivered throughout the school year. (Department of Research, Evaluation, and Assessment)