

PLANNED IMPROVEMENT FOR THE SCHOOL AND DISTRICT

Girard High School

As determined by the high school report, the ACT score of all tested students showed a composite average of 19.2, with an English score of 19.0, a mathematics score of 19.3, a reading score of 19.3, and a Science Reasoning score of 18.5.

According to our 2006-2007 PSAE results, 45.9% of our students met or exceeded the state standards in the area of reading. We still have 54.1% of our students who are not meeting or exceeding the state standards. The English department will be focusing more on reading novels, short stories, and magazines to teach students about various societies, eras, and ideas. Students will be learning how to preview reading materials, clarify meaning, analyze themes, and integrate facts with information from other sources to improve our students' scores. Students will utilize more writing activities in all classes to enhance their creativity and fluency.

At the high school math level, 47.5% of our students met or exceeded the state standards. This leaves a gap of 52.5% of our students who did not meet or exceed in the area of math. This is an improvement from the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 school years. Our school is in the process of revamping our math course options for the 2007-2008 school years. We have many students not signing up for the upper level math classes; therefore, we are encouraging and slowly eliminating some of our lower level math classes. This should increase the number of students in the upper level classes and provide a better background in the area of vocabulary and math facts. We have found that our students need a better understanding of the use of geometric methods to analyze, categorize, and draw conclusions about points, lines, planes, and space. Our students now have three years of required math prior to graduating versus two years of math. We currently use four different math textbooks from grades 6-12. We are looking at our curriculum and making changes accordingly.

Our high school science scores indicated that 39.3% of our students met or exceeded the state standards, which left 60.7% of our students below the state standards. Our science department will be incorporating more graphs and charts throughout our curriculum. By allowing our students to practice with graphs and charts on a regular basis, our students will be familiar with them on our future achievement tests. Our staff is placing emphasis on vocabulary use and reading fluency throughout all subjects.

Our juniors participated in the writing portion of the PSAE this year and performed well. The score target for this year was 55% and our students met or exceeded that percentage by 7.3%. Our students will be focusing on writing more in all academic classes throughout the school year to enhance their writing skills. Grammar skills seem to be improving, and we will continue to work in that area.

The goal for our high students and for our high school teachers will be to reach a minimum of 62.5% meeting and exceeding in all areas of the PSAE this year. A reward and incentive program is in place to encourage students to work to their fullest potentials.