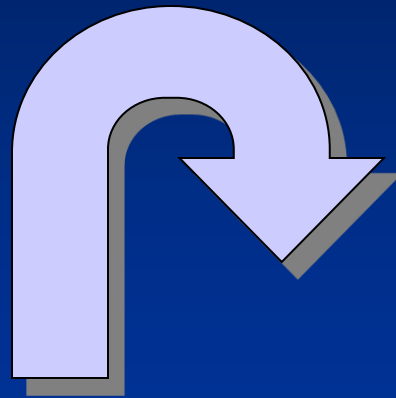
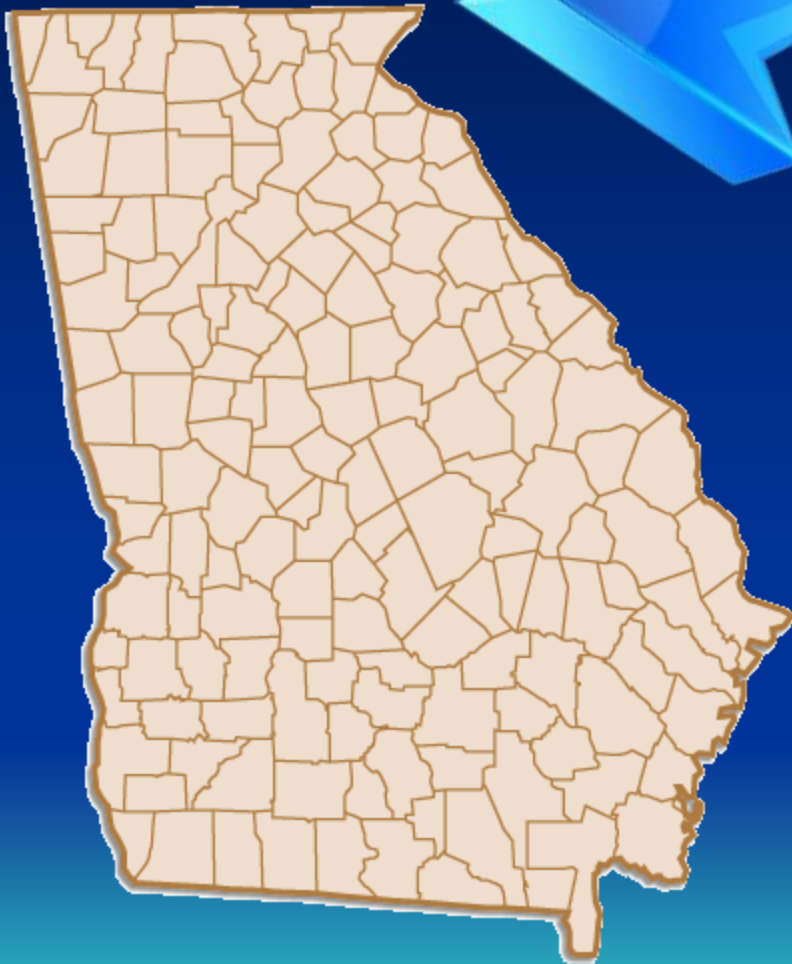


Turning Around the Graduation Rate at RCHS



Spring Special Education
Leadership Meeting
March 23, 2010
JoAlice Ray



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Where
Spring
Spends
the
Summer

Just the Facts...

- Rural school system
- RCHS Enrollment: 668
- Total Enrollment: 2,313
- RCHS SWDs: 80
- Total SWDs: 281
- RCHS Free & Reduced Lunch: 61%
- System wide Free & Reduced Lunch: 68%



Challenges/Barriers

- ❖ High poverty
- ❖ Distance from metropolitan areas with major medical facilities
- ❖ Lack of public transportation
- ❖ Limited social services, agencies, etc.
- ❖ Few industries within the county, dependent on tourism
- ❖ Long commutes to effective alternative education programs, like Mountain Education



Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) Project

- Superintendent Matt Arthur signed on to the LRE Project in 2002
- Every teacher and school administrator was trained in 2003
- System-wide commitment to LRE was established



LRE

- Hired more SPED teachers and paraprofessionals to support students in the general education environment
- Co-teaching and supportive instruction increased significantly



SWDs in Gen. Ed >80%

- 2002 – 37.5%
- 2003 – 64.89%
- 2004 – 65.6%
- 2005 – 65.9%
- 2006 – 76.8%
- 2007 – 78.4%
- 2008 – 78.3%
- 2009 - 66.2%



Instruction

- Learning Focused Strategies
 - Expectation that these would be used in every classroom
 - Continued professional development on LFS



Clemson University's National Dropout Prevention Project for SWDs

- RCHS participated as a pilot site
- Administrative decision to apply principles of the project to ALL students
- Action plan developed for improving:
 - Graduation rates
 - Test scores
 - Addressing disenfranchised students' needs



RCHS
Dropout Prevention Action Plan
for Students with Disabilities

Goals: To improve academic performance for SWDs as well as improve graduation rates & prepare RCCHS graduates for successful entry into higher education and/or the workforce



President Obama's Weekly Address: 03/13/10

“Through this plan we are setting an ambitious goal: all students should graduate from high school prepared for college and a career – no matter who you are or where you come from. “



RCHS Dropout Survey

- February 2008 – Dropouts were contacted individually by Graduation Coach to participate in a survey about why they left school and what would have improved their chances of staying in school



Improvement Strategy

RCHS will reduce the dropout rate in Rabun County School System, thereby increasing our graduation rate.



Failure Is Not an Option Policy at RCHS

- Redo/Resubmit Policy implemented at RCHS
- Skill mastery became the goal and zeroes are not tolerated
- Guidance counselors, graduation coach, teachers, parents, students and administration work together on behalf of students



Never Work Harder than Your Students & Other Principles of Great Teaching

1. Start where your students are
2. Know where your students are going
3. Expect to get your students to their goal
4. Support your students along the way



Never Work Harder than Your Students & Other Principles of Great Teaching (Continued)

- 5. Use feedback to help you and your students get better
- 6. Focus on quality rather than quantity
- 7. Never work harder than your students

Author: Robyn R. Jackson, PhD



Risk Factors which Target Students for Strategic Help at RCHS

- ❖ Free & Reduced lunch status
- ❖ SWD
- ❖ REP in Math
- ❖ REP in Language Arts (LA)
- ❖ Failed EOCT in either Math or LA
- ❖ Credits earned are less than expected
- ❖ 3 or more discipline referrals in a year
- ❖ 15 or more absences per year



Graduation Rates (all students)

- 2003 67.10%
- 2004 63.80%
- 2005 72.10%
- 2006 71.50%
- 2007 75.60%
- 2008 80.70%
- 2009 86.00%

Graduation Rates (continued)

Year	Hispanic	White	SWD	ED
2003	NA	67.10%	30%	70%
2004	NA	64.90%	45.50%	68.10%
2005	60%	74.60%	31.60%	55.10%
2006	61.50%	72.60%	52.90%	67.80%
2007	NA	75.50%	35.70%	62.50%
2008	81.80%	81%	56.50%	71.90%
2009	NA	90.20%	72.70%	76.90%

Performance Indicators:

By 2010, graduation rates will increase to 80%.

By 2010, GHSGT scores in English will increase to 87.7%;
GHSGT in mathematics will increase to 74.9%.

By 2010, EOCT scores will increase to 80% passage
rate for all students.

By 2010, all outliers and other disenfranchised students
needing services will be referred to appropriate programs
on a routine basis per the RTI model.



- By 2010, SAT composite scores will reach an average of 1475.
- By 2010, ACT scores will reach an average of 20.5%.
- By 2010, all GPS-aligned subjects will be evaluated each nine weeks to monitor the curriculum and its immediate and ongoing impact on student learning.



Where do we go from here?

- Utilize internal resources to provide meaningful, low or no cost professional development
- Continue efforts to differentiate and provide appropriate interventions
- Focus on improving math instruction and test scores Ex. Before and after school tutoring
- Work on writing across the curriculum, not just in English/Language Arts classes



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Rabun County School System

Educating every child for
success in life



QUESTIONS?

