



Director's Digest

September 26, 2008

"Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence." - *Abigail Adams*

2008 MCAS Highlights and Focus Areas

We have many areas to celebrate as we review our 2008 MCAS results.

- ♦ All 10th grade students passed the English Language Arts MCAS exam.
- ♦ 68 out of 70 students passed the high school physics test.
- ♦ 22 students scored perfect or near perfect (one incorrect) on one of the tests.
- ♦ The majority of our students have increased their proficiency as they have progressed throughout the grades while at FRCS.
- ♦ Students continue to outperform students the longer they are enrolled at FRCS.

Other highlights include:

Increases in Advanced/Proficient Levels Combined:

HS Physics (+20)	Grade 7 Math (+18)
Grade 5 ELA (+9)	Grade 7 ELA (+5)
Grade 10 ELA (+2)	Grade 6 ELA (+2)
Grade 3 Reading (+1)	

Increases in Advanced or Proficient Levels:

Grade 6 ELA (+13)	HS Physics (+12)
Grade 6 Math (+4)	Grade 5 Science/Tech (+4)
Grade 3 Math (+2)	Grade 7 Math (+1)
Grade 6 Math (+1)	

Decreases in Failing/Warning:

HS Physics (-8)	Grade 8 Science/Tech (-5)
Grade 7 ELA (-5)	Grade 5 ELA (-4)
Grade 7 Math (-2)	

As we analyzed the scores, unfortunately, there were also concerns and some readily identifiable areas in need of improvement. While the good news is we were NOT one of the 50% of districts in Massachusetts designated as "Needs Improvement" or requiring "Corrective Action", we did not fare as well as we would have liked. We made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in the aggregate for English Language Arts, however we did not meet progress goals in math as established by No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

As required by the federal NCLB, all schools and districts are expected to meet or exceed specific student performance standards in English language arts/reading (ELA) and mathematics by the year 2014. AYP determinations are issued yearly based

on the performance of all students and for student subgroups to monitor the interim progress toward attainment of those performance goals. To receive an affirmative 2008 AYP determination, districts and schools must meet a student participation requirement, an additional attendance or graduation requirement, and either the State's 2008 performance target for that subject or the district, school or subgroup's own 2008 improvement target.

We have identified some subgroup trends across the grade levels and have already begun addressing them school-wide. Additionally, we have already implemented various strategies throughout the summer which directly impact the identified gaps, such as a strong literacy initiative, the hiring of math and literacy coaches, and additional and focused intensive teachers and supports.

Also, this week at our monthly staff meeting, all teachers continued analyzing the data and worked in small groups to put the strategies in place. We are working in grade level, subject matter, and vertical teams. Additionally, K-2 teachers, Spanish teachers, and specialists all have action plans to support achievement.

Continuing with our philosophy of data analysis and results-orientated planning, we have already identified some areas within our curriculum and instruction and we are marching forward to immediately understand, address, and revise student-specific gaps.

Board Calendar Highlights School Presentations

Each month at the Board of Trustees meeting, we feature a lower school, upper school, and/or school-wide program. The purpose of these presentations is to inform the Board and the public about specific programs and how they contribute to the vision, mission, and goals of the school. These presentations are in addition to programs and updates provided by the various committees and the Director's report.

All programs presented directly impact student achievement and are listed within one or more of three general categories (Curriculum, Assessment, and Personnel) and are directly related to specific components of the school's Vision Statement. The following is our year-long plan to present various programs to the Board and public.

Oct	Student Achievement—Standardized Test Scores
Nov	Retreat—Strategic Planning and Development
Dec	Literacy—Curriculum, Instruction, Staff Training
Jan	Student Supports—Remedial to Enrichment
Feb	Professional Development— School/Individual Plans
Mar	Special Populations—Program Supports and Progress
Apr	Retreat—School Evaluation and Strategic Planning
May	Leadership and Service—School/Student Initiatives
Jun	Student Achievement—Individual and School

- Mark Logan