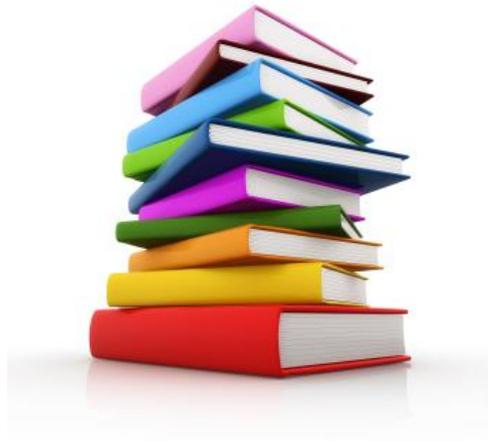


*Twin Springs
High School*



2015-2016

*School Improvement
Plan*

Twin Springs High School 2015-2016 School Improvement Plan

Committee Members

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Philosophy of Twin Springs High School

Twin Springs High School enables, inspires, and empowers students to achieve high academic standards, lead ethical lives, and become responsible citizens. Through a sustained commitment to education, Twin Springs High School aspires to establish a community of respectful, cooperative and compassionate learners.

We, the faculty and administration of Twin Springs High School, desire an educational system that will enhance the continuous practices of democratic principles in the school, home, and community. Furthermore, we believe that an instructional program should be provided for students of all capabilities and needs.

In preparing today's youth for tomorrow's responsibilities, we strive to encourage the individual to grow intellectually, physically, and ethically. The student should be taught to think logically and communicate effectively. We, the faculty, also wish to encourage moral and ethical growth through our own exemplary behavior.

Since most of the student's impressionable years are spent within the school plant, we feel that the school should provide a safe learning environment. The school plant should maintain an attractive atmosphere of cleanliness, cooperation, and respect, which will enhance the excellence of the academic program.

Through cooperative endeavors of students, parents, teachers, and school administrators of Twin Springs High School, we believe that our philosophy will provide an educational foundation adaptable and applicable for any walk of life a student may pursue.

Executive Summary

The 2014-2015 School Improvement Plan targeted several areas in which the faculty worked to improve. We fell short in our goals of reaching a 70 percent pass rate on the End of Course testing in Algebra II, Grade 8 Math, and Grade 8 Science. Our goal of 75 percent pass rate in Grade 8 Reading and Writing was not met. We achieved a 58 percent pass rate in Algebra II, a 66 percent pass rate in Grade 8 Math, and a 68 percent pass rate in Grade 8 Science. Grade 8 Reading we had a 63 percent pass rate, and a 46 percent pass rate in Grade 8 Writing.

The faculty and students were successful in acquiring passing scores on the following Standards of Learning (SOL) tests: 97 percent World History, 96 percent Algebra I, 94 percent Chemistry, 93 percent Earth Science, 91 percent Geometry, 89 percent United States History, 88 percent EOC Reading, 87 percent World Geography, 83 percent EOC Writing, and 81 percent on Biology I.

We met and exceeded the goal of having a 60 percent rate of resource students graduating with a standard diploma. Our records indicate that we had an 80 percent rate of resource students graduating with a standard diploma. The 2014-2015 overall graduation rate was 96 percent for Twin Springs High School.

In addition, we also surpassed last year's attendance rate of 95.04. We achieved a 95.33 percent attendance rate for the 2014-2015 school year. Twin Springs High School also successfully maintained the dropout rate below a 2 percent average over a five year period.

Overall, our students performed very well on the SOL tests for the 2014-2015 school year. In our 2015-2016 plan, we will continue implementing and focusing on goals we failed to meet in 2014-2015. Additionally, we will attempt to meet other goals directed at improving student achievement.

Twin Springs High School Goals, Strategies and Assessments

Goal 1:

✚ To improve the passing rate on the Algebra II SOL test to above 70 percent.

✚ STRATEGIES:

✚ Implement as many different methods of instruction as possible for topics, particularly those that give students the most difficulty.

✚ Implement collaborative assessments (tests, quizzes, etc...) throughout the semester.

✚ Provide additional tutoring before or after school as needed.

✚ Monitor students' progress on SOL-related items or questions throughout the semester.

✚ Identify and monitor students needing remediation throughout the course.

✚ Use real-life examples to relate the material to students.

✚ Teachers are required to follow the Curriculum Framework.

✚ All teachers are required to follow Scott County Public Schools pacing guides.

✚ ASSESSMENTS:

✚ Review and use results of collaborative assessments to identify areas of strength and weakness.

✚ Review and analyze results of the released practice tests to focus on specific areas of need.

✚ Percentage of students passing the Algebra II SOL test.

Goal 2:

- ✚ To maintain or improve End of Course test scores in all areas. Include a special focus on Eighth Grade Mathematics to improve to above the 70 percent level.

STRATEGIES:

- ✚ Ensure that each teacher is provided with current VDOE SOL objectives and guidelines, encourage teachers to visit the VDOE website periodically, and post VDOE updates in teachers' lounge, thereby enabling teachers to keep up-to-date on current SOL materials, issues, and changes.
- ✚ Require all teachers to correlate lesson plans with their required SOL's.
- ✚ Provide adequate funding to each teacher for the purchase of needed SOL materials.
- ✚ Evaluate prior years' SOL assessments to identify strengths and areas of needed improvement.
- ✚ Encourage teachers in SOL courses to work with teachers in non-SOL classes to ensure that the required content for all students is being taught "across the curriculum."
- ✚ Implement school and countywide departmental meetings that allow teachers in common subject areas to share strategies for teaching SOL objectives.
- ✚ Teachers are required to follow the Curriculum Framework.
- ✚ All teachers are required to follow Scott County Public Schools pacing guides.

- ✚ **ASSESSMENTS:**

- ✚ Lesson plans to provide evidence of correlation with SOL's.
- ✚ School budget to show funding for SOL support.
- ✚ In-service calendar to demonstrate assessments being covered.
- ✚ Computer Lab use.

Goal 3:

- ✚ To maintain or improve End of Course test scores in all areas. Include a special focus on Eighth Grade Reading to improve to above the 75 percent level.

STRATEGIES:

- ✚ Ensure that each teacher is provided with current VDOE SOL objectives and guidelines, encourage teachers to visit the VDOE website periodically, and post VDOE updates in teachers' lounge, thereby enabling teachers to keep up-to-date on current SOL materials, issues, and changes.
- ✚ Require all teachers to correlate lesson plans with their required SOL's.
- ✚ Provide adequate funding to each teacher for the purchase of needed SOL materials.
- ✚ Evaluate prior years' SOL assessments to identify strengths and areas of needed improvement.
- ✚ Encourage teachers in SOL courses to work with teachers in non-SOL classes to ensure that the required content for all students is being taught "across the curriculum."
- ✚ Implement school and countywide departmental meetings that allow teachers in common subject areas to share strategies for teaching SOL objectives.
- ✚ Teachers are required to follow the Curriculum Framework.
- ✚ All teachers are required to follow Scott County Public Schools pacing guides.

- ✚ **ASSESSMENTS:**

- ✚ Lesson plans to provide evidence of correlation with SOL's.
- ✚ School budget to show funding for SOL support.
- ✚ In-service calendar to demonstrate assessments being covered.
- ✚ Computer Lab use.

Goal 4:

- ✚ To maintain or improve End of Course test scores in all areas. Include a special focus on Eighth Grade Writing to improve to above the 75 percent level.

STRATEGIES:

- ✚ Ensure that each teacher is provided with current VDOE SOL objectives and guidelines, encourage teachers to visit the VDOE website periodically, and post VDOE updates in teachers' lounge, thereby enabling teachers to keep up-to-date on current SOL materials, issues, and changes.
- ✚ Require all teachers to correlate lesson plans with their required SOL's.
- ✚ Provide adequate funding to each teacher for the purchase of needed SOL materials.
- ✚ Evaluate prior years' SOL assessments to identify strengths and areas of needed improvement.
- ✚ Encourage teachers in SOL courses to work with teachers in non-SOL classes to ensure that the required content for all students is being taught "across the curriculum."
- ✚ Implement school and countywide departmental meetings that allow teachers in common subject areas to share strategies for teaching SOL objectives.
- ✚ Teachers are required to follow the Curriculum Framework.
- ✚ All teachers are required to follow Scott County Public Schools pacing guides.

- ✚ **ASSESSMENTS:**

- ✚ Lesson plans to provide evidence of correlation with SOL's.
- ✚ School budget to show funding for SOL support.
- ✚ In-service calendar to demonstrate assessments being covered.
- ✚ Computer Lab use.

Goal 5:

- ✚ To maintain or improve End of Course test scores in all areas. Include a special focus on Eighth Grade Science to improve to above the 70 percent level.

STRATEGIES:

- ✚ Ensure that each teacher is provided with current VDOE SOL objectives and guidelines, encourage teachers to visit the VDOE website periodically, and post VDOE updates in teachers' lounge, thereby enabling teachers to keep up-to-date on current SOL materials, issues, and changes.
- ✚ Require all teachers to correlate lesson plans with their required SOL's.
- ✚ Provide adequate funding to each teacher for the purchase of needed SOL materials.
- ✚ Evaluate prior years' SOL assessments to identify strengths and areas of needed improvement.
- ✚ Encourage teachers in SOL courses to work with teachers in non-SOL classes to ensure that the required content for all students is being taught "across the curriculum."
- ✚ Implement school and countywide departmental meetings that allow teachers in common subject areas to share strategies for teaching SOL objectives.
- ✚ Teachers are required to follow the Curriculum Framework.
- ✚ All teachers are required to follow Scott County Public Schools pacing guides.

✚ **ASSESSMENTS:**

- ✚ Lesson plans to provide evidence of correlation with SOL's.
- ✚ School budget to show funding for SOL support.
- ✚ In-service calendar to demonstrate assessments being covered.
- ✚ Computer Lab use.

Goal 6:

- ✚ To improve the passing rate on SOL tests taken by resource students to above the 80 percent level in all areas.

✚ STRATEGIES:

- ✚ Resource students will be provided with inclusion as well as pull out services.
- ✚ Provide and implement modification for those resource students in the regular classroom.
- ✚ Provide additional remediation through tutoring in math English remediation classes to those resource students whose schedule permits.
- ✚ Make aware and emphasize to both students and parents through newsletters, the importance and benefits of putting forth the greatest possible effort toward passing SOL tests.

✚ ASSESSMENTS:

- ✚ Periodic meetings with regular education teachers to monitor and review the progress of resource students in their classes, thereby enabling regular education teachers to enhance the success of these students by making needed adjustments, modifications, and accommodations.
- ✚ Target weaknesses by reviewing SOL test scores with administrators and teachers.

Goal 7:

- ✚ To work toward continually improving and maintaining the number of resource students who graduate with a standard diploma to the 60 percent level.

✚ STRATEGIES:

- ✚ Place resource students on a standard diploma or applied studies track.
- ✚ Provide inclusion or pull out services for resource students that are in the regular education classroom that are not self-contained.
- ✚ Use needed modifications to help with SOL testing.
- ✚ Implement alternative testing to those students that require it.

✚ ASSESSMENTS:

- ✚ Continual collaboration between regular and resource teachers to meet the needs and enhance the success of each resource student.
- ✚ Percentage of resource students passing End of Course Tests.
- ✚ Percentage of resource students graduating with a standard or applied studies diploma.

Goal 8:

- ✚ To continue to maintain the attendance rate at its current level of 95 percent or higher.

✚ STRATEGIES:

- ✚ Attempt to call or verify on a daily basis the absence of each student.
- ✚ Keep log of each parent excuse used by students.
- ✚ Limit parent excuses to seven per year.
- ✚ Keep log of each unexcused absence of every student.
- ✚ Have county truancy official meet with student and parent after six unexcused absences.
- ✚ Provide recognition for perfect nine weeks and yearly attendance.

✚ ASSESSMENTS:

- ✚ Verify absences by parent and unexcused absence logs.
- ✚ Complete data of each student's attendance provided by PowerSchool.
- ✚ Records kept of each attendance meeting with student or parent.
- ✚ County truancy official to keep records on each parent/student conference.

Goal 9:

- ✚ To keep the dropout rate below a 2 percent average over a five-year period, placing emphasis on resource students and exempting those students dismissed by the court system.

✚ STRATEGIES:

- ✚ Have at least one career-goal individual counseling session with every senior high school student.
- ✚ Encourage teachers to refer students that are having a difficult time in class to the guidance office and state reason for referral (emotional, academic, social, or other reasons).
- ✚ Guidance Counselor maintains open door policy which students are encouraged to discuss any academic or personal concerns.
- ✚ Call Kathy Funkhouser (School/Court Liaison) when students fail to meet academic standards or show disinterest in school.
- ✚ Keep in close contact with parents or guardians when students fail to meet academic standards or show disinterest in school.
- ✚ Maintain updated records on verified credits to inform students, parents, and teachers of students with less than the number of verified credits needed to graduate with a standard or advance diploma.
- ✚ Provide intervention and remediation services to students who have failed an End-of-Course SOL test.

✚ ASSESSMENTS:

- ✚ Review the guidance counselor's log, record of standard and verified credits, and senior exit interview forms.
- ✚ Review the referral forms given to guidance counselor and the dates that the counselor met with the referred student.
- ✚ Review log of referrals to Kathy Funkhouser.
- ✚ Review teacher's log of contact with parents.
- ✚ Review information in the computer system and information given to teachers, students, and parents.

Goal 10:

- ✚ To actively involve all teachers at Twin Springs High School in the continual improvement of their professional growth through staff development activities.

✚ STRATEGIES:

- ✚ Provide various staff development activities throughout the school year at Twin Springs, so as to assist teachers in their professional development.
- ✚ Coordinate staff development activities with Gate City and Rye Cove High Schools to provide more opportunities for teachers.
- ✚ Continue stressing need for advancement in technology skills.
- ✚ Encourage staff members to attend appropriate county-sponsored workshops.
- ✚ Encourage staff members to attend appropriate regional group meetings and workshops.
- ✚ Encourage teachers to take appropriate college classes to renew their teaching certificates.

✚ ASSESSMENTS:

- ✚ Sign-In sheets and certificates will verify staff attendance at workshops and professional meetings.
- ✚ List of teachers maintaining teaching certificate available at central office.

Goal 11:

- ✚ To maintain the overall enrollment of our graduates in colleges or universities to a 50 percent average over a six-year period.

✚ STRATEGIES:

- ✚ Arrange an interview between each senior and the guidance counselor in order to examine the student's history, remaining requirements, and future ambitions.
- ✚ Make dual enrollment courses available to all students.
- ✚ Provide information on the SAT and ACT assessments to juniors and seniors.
- ✚ Ensure that students have access to information on colleges and universities through the Internet, as well as traditional resources such as pamphlets, brochures, bulletins, and catalogs.
- ✚ Provide scholarship information, assistance, and availability to all seniors.
- ✚ Allow representatives from colleges and universities to set up displays to provide information and assistance to students.
- ✚ Make students aware of the AIMS tuition free program through Mountain Empire Community College and the requirements needed to qualify for this program.

✚ ASSESSMENTS:

- ✚ Conduct research and keep records indicating which students attend colleges or universities.

Goal 12:

- ✚ To provide a safe environment for all Twin Springs High students.
- ✚ STRATEGIES:
- ✚ To develop and continually update an annual school safety plan.
- ✚ To develop a bus duty schedule and have teachers on bus duty at all times.
- ✚ To develop a bathroom monitoring schedule and have teachers monitor bathrooms between classes.
- ✚ Principal, Assistant Principal and School Resource Officer will continually monitor hallways before school, between classes, and during lunch.
- ✚ Crisis management plan in place to deal with major events or circumstances.
- ✚ Cameras monitored by the full time resource officer as well as principal and assistant principal.
- ✚ Random perimeter security checks conducted by the school resource officer.
- ✚ Mutual partnership between school resource officer and school staff to conduct random and unannounced checks for illegal contraband (i.e. drugs/narcotics, weapons).
- ✚ Security provided by the school resource officer (as well as additional officers if needed) at sporting events and school activities.
- ✚ Conduct educational sessions addressing areas such as bullying, sexting and safe internet use in classes at the request of the teacher.
- ✚ Resource officer assists the faculty/staff in monitoring hallways and bathrooms.
- ✚ Resource officer provides recommendations to enhance or improve security policies already in place.
- ✚ Use of secured entrance system to control access to the building from visitors.
- ✚ Mutual cooperation between resource officer and Commonwealth attorney's office in establishing a quick reference guide to assist in the screening process of visitors concerning sex offenders.
- ✚ Mutual cooperation between school resource officer and the court system to ensure proper documentation is obtained concerning child custody issues.

✚ ASSESSMENTS:

- ✚ PowerSchool discipline log kept as to student incidents.
- ✚ Periodically review and update information regarding sex offenders living in our school district.
- ✚ Threat assessment team will periodically meet to discuss any potential threats that exist.
- ✚ Periodically test our emergency 911 system that connects directly to the Scott County Sheriff's Office.
- ✚ Monitoring of social media by the school resource officer used as Intel gathering concerning potential threats to safety or security.

Goal 13:

- ✚ To ensure all students are prepared to successfully continue their education or enter the workforce upon graduation.

✚ *STRATEGIES:*

- ✚ Provide each student with career and course selection counseling designed to prepare them for either continued education or successful entry into the work field upon graduation.
- ✚ Make dual enrollment courses available.
- ✚ Direct college-bound students in courses that will best prepare them for their chosen career path.
- ✚ Guidance will utilize the latest technology and maintain a good college catalog inventory.
- ✚ Provide easy access information on college offerings and careers.
- ✚ Students will be informed of vocational offering changes as soon as school is aware of change.
- ✚ Utilize the Career Coach provided by Mountain Empire Community College.
- ✚ Students are encouraged to visit the Virginia Wizard website that provides information about college and career choices.

✚ *ASSESSMENTS:*

- ✚ Guidance Counselor log will serve to show career and course selection process.
- ✚ Up to date college catalog and career technology library will serve as documentation of directing student toward chosen careers.
- ✚ Contracts with local colleges will be available to verify college credit in dual-enrollment. Information center available in library.

Goal 14:

- ✚ To actively involve all citizens of the community in the provision and support of education.

✚ STRATEGIES:

- ✚ Encourage and support parents in their role as being an active participant in their child's education.
- ✚ Encourage parents and community members to become active volunteers within the school framework.
- ✚ Communicate to parents that school and teachers are available to discuss child's successes and failures.
- ✚ Provide a newsletter to parents two times a year that outlines school's goals, achievements and schedules.

✚ ASSESSMENTS:

- ✚ Teacher log for parent visits during school day.
- ✚ Membership in band booster and athletic booster organizations.
- ✚ Guidance log for parent visits during school day.

Goal 15:

- ✚ Provide support for parents of students with disabilities by helping them play an active role in the students' life.

✚ STRATEGIES:

- ✚ Support parents by providing them with a list of organizations that offer services to students with special needs.
- ✚ Provide transition services to students and parents at the end of their junior year.
- ✚ Provide information about services available after graduation.

✚ ASSESSMENTS:

- ✚ Signature page indicating acknowledgement of available services and participating agencies.
- ✚ Documentation of invitations to transition and IEP meeting.
- ✚ Follow up phone calls to parents that do not attend meeting.