

Narrative Number One

Graduation Rate

Present a plan to raise the graduation rate to 82.32 percent (state goal) within three years.

Current rate 81.34%

Narrative 1: Graduation Rate:

Russell County Schools' current graduation rate is 81.34, per the 2009-2010 school year data. The following programs have been initiated by the Russell County School District and its partners to increase the graduation rate:

Truancy Diversion Program

The Russell County Middle School personnel have collaborated with Court Designated Workers, the Family Court Judge, Director of Pupil Personnel, Assistant County Attorneys, Youth Service center Director and other employees of the Administrative Office of the Courts to implement a Truancy Diversion Program. There is the potential to expand to the 9th grade at the high school. The Truancy Diversion program assists students at risk of being charged with a truancy offense because of too many unexcused absences. The program uses a team approach to help students develop good attendance habits and improve their overall school experience. The TDP Program meets the needs of truant students by using education, prevention, accountability and treatment, if applicable, to address the issues surrounding truancy. The truancy diversion program is composed of two phases:

Precomplaint Phase: If a student is truant, meaning the student has been absent or tardy three or more times without a valid excuse, the student is referred to the TDP program. The student will then attend a meeting with the CDW or a committee member. Any barriers will be addressed to assist the child and the family to avoid missing any more days. If no more unexcused days are missed then nothing else is done. If the child continues to miss unexcused days then he or she will be referred to the Complaint Phase.

Complaint Phase: The second phase is the complaint Phase and begins once a student is reported truant two or more times. At that point the student is considered habitually truant and the CDW or DPP fills out a complaint on the student. The student and his/her parents will then be invited to attend educational workshops for 10 weeks. Efforts are made to avoid court referrals because of truancy. The student's progress will be monitored and court referrals made if the student's attendance does not improve.

Work Ethics Certificate Program

The Work Ethics Certificate Program is for high school seniors interested in demonstrating desirable skills and attributes necessary for meaningful employment and success in life. The program is voluntary and the pursuit of the certificate is entirely the student's responsibility. Students are given an opportunity to sign up for the program until the end of August. During orientation, they are able to gather information about the program and ask any questions they may have. The school will gather data from Infinite Campus, coaches and club advisors to apply the standards called for. The criteria to receive the Work Ethic Certificate are:

- 1) No more than 8 absences during the school year; 2) No more than 2 unexcused absences;
- 3) No more than 2 unexcused tardies; 4) Have no major disciplinary referrals (alternative school placement, suspension or expulsion); 5) A minimum GPA of 2.5 with no failures in any course credit during the year; 6) Attendance at two "Work Basics" seminars/job training sessions (1 hour each); 7) Submission of completed application to the Principal's Office; 8) Involvement in at least two (2) of the following during the school year: organized team sport, extracurricular program (band, chorus, school clubs, etc.), part-time employment or community volunteer, verifiable

community service project, school based enterprise (i.e., store, etc.) and special recommendation from teacher.

Career Pathway

Russell County High School strives to prepare students for college and future careers. Every student is required to earn four credits from a chosen career major; regardless of the type of diploma they are seeking. Students are given information about career majors during registration for classes each year. Beginning in 8th grade, school counselors talk to students about career majors and give them the tools and information they need to create a plan for their 4 years of high school that will allow them to successfully meet all requirements for graduation and prepare them for college and/or a career. Upon completion of the courses required for a career major, students may take the Kentucky Occupational Skills Standards Assessment (KOSSA) and receive career specific certification. RCHS, in conjunction with the Lake Cumberland Area Technology Center (LCATC), offers 17 different career majors from 9 different career clusters. Students at LCATC have the opportunity to earn O*Net certificates and industry certifications.

Russell County High School uses the Individual Learning Plan (ILP) to help students become college and career ready. Students work with their ILP throughout the year to stay focused on their goals, both short-term and long-term. In regards to career readiness they use the career matchmaker to see what careers are best suited to their personal likes/dislikes and also rate their current skill sets in order to see if their skills are currently where they need to be in order to pursue those careers. They can also search for ANY career they are interested in and see how their personal likes/dislikes match it as well as how they rated their current skills. They can revise these throughout the year so as to keep them focused on their intended career(s). They can also use that information to decide on college, if that is necessary, or what they need to do to go directly into the workforce.

In addition to the ILP, students at RCHS receive individual counseling during registration to discuss their future goals. Registration materials include planning guides that contain information about college and career readiness requirements, KEES, diploma requirements, career majors, and dual credit college classes. The RCHS Course Handbook is also available on-line. Students in each grade level are given a grade specific registration packet with information about courses offered and tools to help plan their course of study for high school. Students then meet one-on-one with a counselor or registrar to discuss class selection and if they are on track to meet their future goals.

Youth Service Center Mentoring

The WIA Youth Services Program targets high school seniors who are economically disadvantaged and/or at-risk. The primary goal is to see that each participant graduates and develops a plan for post-secondary. This may include entering into college, vocational training and/or workplace. The program offers various components throughout the school year. They include tutoring, community service, mentoring, counseling, and paid/unpaid work experience. There has also in the past been a summer work experience component. This area normally allows us to extend the program to other ages and serve more than the initial program participants. Once the student leaves the program and graduates we do a follow-up service for a year to insure that the student continues on a successful path.

The mentoring program is designed for freshman at-risk youth as identified by the Freshman Dock teachers. Once they are identified the student meets with YSC staff and discusses the issues that

make them feel or be at-risk. A plan is made to set goals and try to alleviate the issues the youth may have. An adult is placed with the student to serve as a mentor if the parent of the student agrees.

Work Based Learning

The Lake Cumberland Area Technology Center (LCATC) has a dual credit agreement with Kentucky Community & Technical College currently covering all programs except with the exception of machine tool. The LCATC has an articulation agreement with the following schools, covering the programs listed:

Northern Kentucky University – Welding, Electricity, Machine Tool, Carpentry, Industrial Maint.

Louisville Technical Institute – Electricity, Machine Tool

Morehead State University – Machine Tool, Carpentry, Electricity, Welding

ATA College – Health Sciences

Sullivan College – Electricity, Machine Tool

Ohio Technical College – Automotive Technology

Kentucky Community & Technical College --All Programs

The LCATC has a memorandum of agreement with Spencerian College in Lexington

In addition to the dual credit, articulation and memorandum of agreements, the Lake Cumberland Area Technology Center (LCATC) also offers the following:

- 1) **Clinical**-experience for those students enrolled in the health occupations field. Example: A health student completes a related experience at a hospital during school hours and is supervised by a hospital employee.
- 2) **Cooperative Education Experiences**- depending upon his/her career major. Example: A student is employed by a business that is related to his/her career major.
- 3) **Entrepreneurial**-program that is typically found in the agricultural areas and may be a short or long term project. Example: A student operates a lawn care or greenhouse business after school hours; has a training plan and is maintaining appropriate records.
- 4) **Internship**-provides the high-school student who has completed extensive preparation related to a career major an opportunity to pursue on-the-job training. Short-Term Example: A student learns to operate a piece of equipment to which he/she does not have access at school. Long-Term Example: A student share job responsibilities with full-time employees as a part of a team working on projects related to his/her career major during the senior year of high-school.
- 5) **Mentoring**-provides a student with an adult who provides support and guidance in career pathway(s). Example: A student goes to an attorney's office to explore careers in paralegal, accounting, criminal law and/or civil law.
- 6) **Shadowing**-where a student spends a limited amount of time with an individual in a chosen occupation to become familiar with the duties associated with that occupation. Example: A student spends one hour a day for a week observing an employee of a business related to his/her career major.

Credit Recovery

It is important that students are afforded the opportunity to quickly regain credits not obtained due to failures, excessive absences, etc. Russell County High School offers after-school credit recovery, summer school and distance learning classes via Novel/Stars. Novel/Stars is an internet based curriculum (correlated with the common core standards) that allows students to earn credits anywhere they have a computer and internet access.

WORK ETHICS SEAL PROGRAM

The Work Ethics Seal Program is for high school seniors interested in demonstrating desirable skills and attributes necessary for meaningful employment and success in life. The program is voluntary and the pursuit of the Seal is entirely the student's responsibility. Students are given an opportunity to sign up for the program until the end of August. During orientation, they are able to gather information about the program and ask any questions they may have. The School will gather data from Infinite Campus, Coaches, and club advisors to apply the standards called for. The criteria to receive the Work Ethic Seal are:

- No more than 8 absences during the school year
- No more than 2 unexcused absences
- No more than 2 unexcused tardies
- Have no major disciplinary referrals (Alternative School Placement, Suspension or Expulsion)
- A minimum G.P.A. of 2.5 with no failures in any course credit during the year
- Attendance of two "Work Basics" seminars (1 hour each) (job training session)
- Submission of completed application to the Guidance Counselor's Office.
- Involvement in at least (2) of the following during the school year:
 1. Organized team sport
 2. Extracurricular program (band, chorus, school, clubs, etc.)
 3. Part-time employment or community volunteer
 4. Verifiable community service project
 5. School based enterprise (i.e., store, etc.)
 6. Special recommendation from teacher

GOALS AND ACTION PLAN FOR THE WORK ETHIC SEAL PROGRAM

- Increase graduation rate
- Decrease dropout rate
- Reduce achievement gap by motivating students to have better attendance and better grades
- Prepare students for school to work transition
- Students graduate with strong "work ethic" and confidence to succeed by setting goals and sticking with them
- Students who successfully complete the program receive a certificate
- Students who successfully complete the program are recognized publicly
- The "average" students who attend school regularly and have no discipline problems earn recognition
- Increase awareness of the Work Ethic Certificate to local business and industry
- Qualifying students have advantage over other students when seeking employment
- Business and industry surveys are conducted to elicit support and suggestions
- Participation by students is voluntary

**RUSSELL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL WORK ETHICS SEAL
PROGRAM APPLICATION 2010-2011**

GRADE LEVEL: SENIOR

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **ZIP CODE:** _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ **STUDENT ID#** _____

LIST YOUR EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

*** PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR'S OFFICE BY OCTOBER 31, 2011.**

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:
GUIDANCE COUNSELOR'S OFFICE**