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Local World's Best Workforce Summary Report

October 30, 2014

In accordance with Minnesota Statute 2013, section 120B.11, this is submitted to the Commissioner of Education as part of the Braham Area Schools World's Best Workforce Plan. The mission of Braham Area Schools is to bring together students, parents and the community to provide a quality education that will enable students to pursue post-secondary opportunities for training and education. Braham Area Schools recognizes the ever-increasing importance of preparing students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce.

A Data Team comprised of the Superintendent, Elementary Principal, High School Principal, Assistant Principal and District Assessment Coordinator will meet on a semi-annual basis to first interpret MMR scores and all other indicators of student achievement and growth. Current interventions will be discussed to determine their impact on those groups to identify modification needs on subgroups not meeting adequate proficiency. Once modifications have been determined, they will be implemented by the building principals and tracked over the course of the year by using internal controls and assessments to monitor the progress of student achievement. The Data team will meet again to monitor preliminary data compiled from the Career subsets of tests (PSAT, Explore, Plan, ASVAB, Compass), OLPA's and Access for ELL prior to the MCA & MTAS Science, Reading and Math tests in April. Any final modifications and accommodations for testing will be determined during this meeting.

Braham Area Schools has expanded all Early Childhood programs for the 2014-2015 school year. Being a recipient of a Pathway II grant has allowed the program the resources to offer education opportunities for both First-Step and Kinderstep programs. Expansion of the programs include all day sessions for the Kinderstep students either on a 2 or 3 day rotation. Kinderstep is a school readiness preschool program designed to prepare students for our all day/everyday Kindergarten program started in the 2013-2014 school year.

The FAST assessment data for Kindergarten students indicates that 41% of our students are at High Risk based on the early Reading benchmark for in the fall of 2014. Interventions targeted at the Kindergarten are as follows: Title I services, continue lower class sizes, reading intervention teacher, SMART room, W.I.N. time and RTI (Response to Intervention).

In grades 1 - 6, as determined by 2014 MMR testing, areas targeted are ELL and Special Ed growth. The demographic of Free lunch students has also been cited for interventions. Interventions identified for all three of these groups are as follows: Implementation of Response to Intervention (RTI) program, use of data checkpoints under the FAST testing and an after school program called Bomber Boost.

Overall proficiency at the secondary level met their targets. However, there are areas that will be designated for interventions. Students not meeting target growth will be pulled out of elective courses such as music to receive additional instruction in the areas found deficient in the math assessment. A Math Corps volunteer has also been deployed at the 7th and 8th grade levels to provide additional support and instruction to students who have not met their target growth for proficiency. An internal support group with National Honor Society (NHS) students will also target at-risk 7th and 8th grade students to offer additional tutorial help with homework and in class assignments. Along with the academic support, NHS students will also mentor these at-risk students to develop positive leadership traits.

As defined by our mission statement, Braham Area School will continue to create and define programming to prepare students for postsecondary education and training for exploration of career development. A number of career exploration curriculum components will be imbedded at the elementary level along with career exploration field trips attended by students at the upper elementary levels.

At the high school, continued development of curriculum and new course studies will be implemented and aligned in accordance to our mission statement. Currently, there are 9 College in the Schools (CIS) courses that have been offered to prepare students for college level learning opportunities. Recruitment of teachers with the additional credentials needed to teach CIS courses will continue to occur upon retirement of staff. Along with targeting needed courses for traditional 4-year college students, there has been an expedient expansion in the number of vocational courses and curricular changes in the industrial tech areas. Recent changes in the structure of the school have allowed all students the opportunity to explore courses traditionally associated with these areas of study such as metals, small engines and woodworking classes. Along with the change in the structure of the day, there has been a change in the focus of directional philosophy in these programs. Curricular components are now shifting towards more high tech metrics such as robotics, TIG welding, 3D printing and further development and implementation of skills for a 21st century workforce. Co-curricular activities in the vocational areas have allowed students the opportunity to work with supermileage competitions and drone technology with an emphasis on career exploration.

A district curriculum team comprised of administrators and teachers meet on a quarterly basis to determine current offerings along with planning for needed changes as defined the Data Team.

The most important indicator of preparation of students for post-secondary opportunities, the ACT results, will also be closely monitored as we move towards all students taking this exam. Through the use of our existing Professional Learning Communities (PLC's), teachers will become aware of and implement changes within current curricular areas to allow students more opportunity for preparation for this exam. Historically, Braham Area Schools has performed at or above the state average on our ACT scores. Although the state average for ACT scores will drop dramatically in the coming years, it is our goal to stay above the state average.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory A. Winter, Superintendent  
Braham Area Schools