

PROGRAMS IN PLACE AT OUR ELEMENTARY BUILDINGS

In this week's article, I would like to share with you some information regarding a couple of student service programs in place at West Union Elementary. Though WUE is often selected to pilot various programs based upon the size of their enrollment and need, some of those same programs are occasionally expanded to North Adams or Peebles Elementaries.

The first program that I want to share information on is the Y.E.S.S. Program. This program is beginning its second year at WUE. Immediately, you probably would like to know what Y.E.S.S. stands for. The answer is Youth Experiencing Success in School. Now, having established the proper name for this program, let's look at some of its aspects.

1. Who may participate? Elementary school-aged children who are experiencing problems with inattention, hyperactivity, impulsivity, aggression, or cooperating with others in a way that interferes with academic progress or social and emotional well-being.
2. How are parents involved? Parents are interviewed as part of a behavioral assessment. Parents complete rating scales about their child's social, emotional, and behavioral functioning three times during the year. Parents attend sessions with YESS Program staff to develop collaborative efforts between home and school.
3. Available services include: Behavioral assessment to identify your child's strengths and weaknesses. Classroom-based behavioral programs – individualized to

your child's needs. Individual parent support meetings. Parenting groups. Children's groups (e.g. social skills, anger management). Teacher inservice training and consultation.

4. Who provides the services? Depending on the school, services are provided either by supervised graduate student clinicians from the Departments of Psychology and Social Work at Ohio University, or by community professionals. Clinicians spend approximately 15 hours a week at West Union Elementary.

5. Program Partners – Ohio University Department of Psychology and Social Work, Ohio University Psychology and Social Work Clinic, Ohio Department of Mental Health, Ohio Department of Education, Adams County/Ohio Valley School District, West Union Elementary, Adams County Family & Children First, Shawnee Mental Health.

6. Program Goals: Improve academic and behavioral functioning of children experiencing challenges in school. Enhance home-school collaboration to improve child well-being. Make support services more accessible to children and parents in rural communities. Enhance school-agency collaborations to provide more comprehensive services to children and families. Enhance consultation and support services for teachers. Conduct research to evaluate program quality and effectiveness.

At the May 2005 Board of Education meeting, a presentation was made by some of the partners involved with the YESS Program at West Union Elementary. A mother and her child were present as well to share their support and appreciation for the program. Certainly, helping students and their families to find success in a school setting is what it's all about. Since the YESS Program is in its second year of funding (all from outside

sources), it will be monitored closely to gauge its positive impact on learning climate and student success.

Now, a second very successful program that I want to share some information with you is the STEPS Program. Let's start at the beginning by establishing the formal name for STEPS. It is Students utilizing Tools to Evaluate Progress for Success. This is a process monitoring program that actually originated through Christina Gossett at our Hopewell SERRC. This innovative program is now being implemented on a state-wide basis. In the AC/OVSD, we have two elementary buildings involved with the practices associated with STEPS. West Union Elementary is in its fourth year of participation, while North Adams Elementary is just getting started.

STEPS operates under a very simple concept. Children are benchmarked three times a year in oral reading fluency. The teacher also evaluates the student against established benchmarks. Some student are monitored monthly to determine if they are maintaining progress. Other students receive intense interventions, and are monitored more closely. The entire class sets goals, and then track their own progress against those established goals. This allows everyone involved to see success with this program. STEPS gives a student, a parent, or a teacher the information needed to determine how much student progress is being made, as well as which interventions are the most effective.

If you have a specific question about YESS, please contact the building administrators at WUE. To learn more about STEPS, contact either the building administrators at NAE or WUE, or Laurel Hamilton, Special Education Supervisor, at 544-6079.

A third program that is operating in two of our elementary buildings is the EETT Grant. EETT stands for Enhancing Education Through Technology. As a result of our district involvement in this grant, elementary computer labs have been greatly enhanced at all three of our elementary buildings. WUE has been involved with this for two school years, while Peebles Elementary just completed its first year of participation. The purpose or premise of the EETT Grant is to assist schools that are either in school improvement, or are at risk of going into school improvement. It is a federal grant that flows through the state. In our case, that is of course, Ohio. These monies are then applied to assist buildings in getting out of, or staying out of, school improvement status through the use of various pre-approved software programs. In our school district, all three of our elementary buildings are utilizing the Riverdeep Destination Reading and Destination Math software packages with their students.

If you have any questions about the EETT Grant, please feel free to contact the elementary administrators, or Marketta Lawhorn, Director of Technology, at 544-5586.

IMPROVEMENTS NOTED

As reported in a separate article in a recent edition of *The People's Defender*, North Adams Elementary and Peebles Elementary were recently recognized for their

improvements on the Local Report Card. While I will not repeat the contents of that article here, I do want to extend congratulations on behalf of the board members and myself to the students, staff, parents, and communities of those two buildings. Keep up the good work!

Charles P. Kimble

Superintendent