

# AIS MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 10, 2004

Revised

**Members Present:** Jennifer Hammond-King, Nancy Ebel, Karen Signor, Ed Ostapczuk, Jane Ebaugh, Elizabeth Schembri, Gail Sloane, Roberta Bloomer, Thomas Blass, Marvin Kreps

The AIS Vertical Team met on December 10, 2004 to continue analyzing the K-12 AIS program. At the beginning of the meeting the group had a rigorous and spirited discussion regarding the problems and challenges associated with the District's AIS program. The team concluded that, rather than launching into a discussion of the problems the program faces, it would be helpful if each member had a clear picture of the entire AIS program K-12. Each team member agreed to record their thoughts regarding problems and potential solutions for sharing at a future meeting. It was thought to be wise to get a clear picture of what is happening in AIS K-12. What follows here is an overview of AIS in the three buildings as reported during the meeting. Each team member has agreed to continue gathering information regarding the AIS program in their respective buildings.

## Elementary:

- Mathematics and English Language Arts AIS is provided in grades K-5.
- Reading is provided in addition to regular instruction in a pull-out setting. Progress reports are written quarterly by the AIS teacher. (K-3)
- The diagnostic tests used are: STIR phonological, DABRON, Beginning Reading, Terra Nova (begins in Gr2)
- Science AIS is provided in grade 5. Students below state designated level on grade 4 assessment receive services.
- In grades 3-5 writing groups are provided as both a pull-out and a push-in.
- In grades 4-5 reading AIS is not in addition to regular schedule reading class. It should be noted that the content demands of the curriculum greatly increase in grade 4.
- Math AIS in grades 2-5 is a pull-out and push-in team taught in addition to regular instruction. Students receive 3-30 min. sessions per week.
- Eligible students also receive AIS support in the form of OT, PT, Speech and Language, counseling, or ESL.

## Middle School:

- Mathematics and English Language Arts AIS is provided in grades 6-8 to eligible students every other day.
- There are only a limited number of slots in each class thus limiting the number of students who can receive AIS services at any given time.
- There is a lack of clarity regarding the duties of AIS teachers. AIS is a duty not a preparation. The question remains: Is AIS in the middle school classwork help? Test prep.? Skill building? Remedial? What curriculum and assessment is to be used?
- The seventh grade curriculum is packed with academic content and the pace of the project due dates puts excessive pressure upon the seventh grade students who have academic deficits.
- OT, PT, Speech and Language, ESL, and counseling continue as a possible service to eligible students.
- The Terra Nova test is the instrument used to evaluate student academic progress. Students scoring below the 35% receive service according available space. There is a concern about those students who score between 35% and the 65%. They are at risk to score below level three on the eighth grade assessment but do not receive AIS service.
- Science AIS is not provided in the Middle School.

## High School:

- Mathematics and English Language Arts AIS are provided every other day to students who score below level three on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade assessments. There are a limited number of spaces so not all students receive AIS services in a separate class. Some students are simply monitored more closely by the teacher in their regular

class.

- The goal of the AIS classes in the high school is to help the students take and pass the required Regents Exam. Reading skills are not directly instructed.
- This year, due to excessive numbers of students scoring below proficient on last years 8<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts exam, not all students in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade are receiving the intensity of service they require. There are not enough spaces.
- Social Studies AIS is taught in a small class every other day to 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who scored below level 3 on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies test. 10<sup>th</sup> grade students who are at risk of failing the Global History and Geography exam receive AIS in Global History every other day. Students who are determined to be at risk to fail the American History Regents may receive AIS during their 11<sup>th</sup> grade year.
- In addition to the above eligible students receive writing and study skills support with Ms. McDonald.
- Special Education students receive extra support through their Resource Room Assignment
- There is a concern that the program is not meeting the needs of the students because there are excessive numbers of students, scheduling conflicts, and a lack of clarity regarding the responsibilities of the AIS teachers.
- High school Science AIS is provided by....