

## Minnesota Principal Academy - Action Learning Project

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Developing a Systematic Evaluation Process for Saints Time (student intervention time)

### Abstract

This action learning project focused on developing an evaluation process for our intervention program (Saints Time) that can detect trends from year to year. Saints Time is built on teachers providing quality intervention to students during the academic school day with a focus on improving Tier 1 and Tier 2 instruction. The planning for Saints Time started during the 2015-2016 school year with our school leadership team looking at research centered on successful intervention programs that utilize Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). We started the program during the 2016-2017 school year. During that year, we struggled with some logistic issues that prevented the program from fully reaching our goals. So that spring, we visited several schools to improve the structure of the program to meet our objectives. We made several changes that helped us move forward to meet student achievement goals not only that year but in future years.

The evaluation will focus on creating a standardized process looking at the following information: staff survey about Saints Time, monitoring grades in classes and meeting PLCs SMART goals for the school year.

#### Vision:

Saints Time is a school-wide intervention program built on the need to help students meet their personal pathway goals which is a central part of the district mission.

#### Background:

St. Francis High School (SFHS) is a traditional 9-12 high school with 1275 students located in North Anoka County. The school serves nine towns and townships in northern Anoka County. The school population is mostly 90% white with 21% of the students receiving free and reduced lunch. It is not unusual for our students to travel over one hour on a bus coming and going to school so few students have the opportunity to arrive early or late to meet with teachers along with over 60% of our students being involved in co-curricular activities.

Saints Time is a 31 minute intervention program that occurs four days a week during the regular school week. If students are struggling in class or need additional assistance, they can attend intervention with the teacher during assigned intervention day(s) for that teacher.

#### Program Rationale:

For the past five years, there has been a focus on PLC development within SFHS and developing Essential Learning Benchmarks (ELBs) for all courses. Each SFHS PLC has an established SMART goal that they report out on at the end of each trimester based on students achieving mastery of ELBs which is normally assessed by summative assessments given at the end of the trimester.

We want to take the next step with Saints Time and make sure that it operates within our PLC process with a focus on Tier One and Tier Two instruction outlined in our district's Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) manual. The evaluation process will help us evaluate our progress towards our goals and identify the next steps.

What we found?

#### Staff Survey:

|                                                                                                                     | 17-18  | 18-19  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Yes, we have some well designed common formative assessments that help you identify students who need intervention. | 24.40% | 34.10% |
| Yes, we have some well designed common formative assessments but need to develop more.                              | 41.50% | 36.60% |
| Yes, we have just started to develop common formative assessments but do not use them for intervention.             | 17.10% | 9.80%  |

| How comfortable are you providing Tier II (small group) intervention during Saints Time? | 17-18  | 18-19  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Very Comfortable                                                                         | 41.50% | 48.80% |
| Comfortable                                                                              | 26.80% | 31.70% |
| Somewhat Comfortable                                                                     | 26.80% | 14.80% |
| Not Comfortable                                                                          | 4.90%  | 4.90%  |

#### ***Math Grading:***

| Grades | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| A      | 25.10% | 21.90% | 18.50% |
| B      | 28.80% | 30.30% | 27.20% |
| C      | 22%    | 23%    | 26.70% |
| D      | 16.80% | 17.80% | 19.40% |
| F      | 6.20%  | 6.60%  | 7.80%  |

#### ***Science Grading:***

| Grades | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| A      | 21.50% | 17.30% | 15.70% |
| B      | 28.30% | 30.30% | 27.10% |
| C      | 27.80% | 28.30% | 27%    |
| D      | 16.80% | 18.60% | 21.80% |
| F      | 4.80%  | 4.70%  | 7.50%  |

#### **PLC Report Outs**

2018 PLCs met their SMART goal - 73.7%

2019 PLCs met their SMART goal - 69.0%

#### **Implications for the Future:**

This evaluation process has established the baseline for future growth in the following areas:

- Tracking and monitoring students closely that need intervention. As we look at staff feedback, we see that this was an area of weakness this past school year.
- Continue to offer professional development opportunities that improve Tier I and Tier II instruction.
- Discuss why we didn't see grades increase as a result of Saints Time.
  - What were the factors that influenced that?
  - How can we change our grading practices to promote student growth?
  - Does our grading practices reflect student's achievement on Essential Learning Benchmarks?
- Develop a system to celebrate student successes, similar to the strategies used by the math department this past year. They provided free blizzards for students that improved using Saints Time during the third trimester.