

HORRY COUNTY SCHOOLS MONITORING REPORT – OE-12

I certify that the information in this report is true.

Signed: Cindy Elsberry Date: June 24, 2013
Cindy Elsberry, Superintendent

Disposition of the Board:
☒ In compliance
☐ Not in compliance
☐ Compliance with exception

Signed: Joe Defeo Date: June 24, 2013
Joe Defeo, Board Chair

Comments: _____

	Supt	Supt	Bd	Bd
	In compliance	Not in compliance	In compliance	Not in compliance
OE-12 – The superintendent shall establish and maintain a learning environment that is safe, respectful and conducive to effective learning.	✓		✓	

Interpretation: I interpret this policy to mean that the District will establish and maintain a safe learning environment that promotes respect, encourages high student achievement, and works collaboratively with parents and other agencies to support students who may be having difficulty with behavioral issues.

Evidence of Status of Compliance:

We are in full compliance of this policy. Evidence is listed below:

- Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports is a process for creating effective and safer schools. Research has shown that the implementation of punishment, especially when it is used inconsistently and in the absence of other positive strategies, is ineffective. The purpose of school-wide PBIS is to establish a climate

in which appropriate behavior is the norm. The primary focus is to change adult behavior to support a positive learning environment for students.

The four elements of PBIS are:

- Outcomes: academic and behavior targets that are endorsed and emphasized by students, families, and educators.
- Practices: interventions and strategies that are evidence based.
- Data: information that is used to identify status, need for change, and effects of interventions.
- Systems: supports that are needed to enable the accurate and durable implementation of the practices of PBIS.

In 2012-2013, Hanover Research completed an evaluation of 16 schools who have implemented PBIS for five school years. The number of infractions per school has remained relatively constant at the 16 schools over the five school years, compared to the increase in disciplinary infractions at other schools.

- Comprehensive Guidance Program

Each school in the district implements the Comprehensive Guidance Program developed by the State Department of Education. The guidance program consists of structured developmental experiences presented systematically through individual activities, classroom activities, and small group activities in prekindergarten through grade twelve. The guidance program provide students at all levels with knowledge of personal, social, academic, and career development, to promote their mental health, and to assist them in acquiring and using life skills. School counselors work in collaboration with school and district staff in determining priorities consistent with school and district goals in order to assist with maintaining an effective learning environment for all students. Consultation services are provided for students, parents, teachers, and administrators, concerning student behavior and academic progress. Referrals to other professionals in the school district or to agencies and institutions outside the district are made as required or requested.

- Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services

Students, who have social emotional and behavioral problems which interfere with their ability to learn, may be eligible for Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services. Based on student needs, services could include behavior intervention, therapeutic groups, and individual counseling to help students learn new skills to monitor and adjust their own behavior and their interactions with others. The program is designed to assist students with modifying negative behaviors and achieving emotional stability as well as academic success. In addition, family support and guidance is provided through therapy sessions, and/or meetings with school staff as an additional intervention to promote positive behavioral change.

- Therapeutic Learning Center (TLC)

TLC is a therapeutic educational facility that offers a comprehensive system of individual, family and group treatment services provided within a small and highly structured educational setting. The program operates as a rehabilitative behavioral

health services program which is designed to improve a student's ability to function independently as provided for by South Carolina state law. The program serves students with severe emotional needs and students who are capable of benefitting from counseling and complex behavior support systems. The purpose of the program is to provide services to students with challenges which impede their academic progress, despite multiple intensive educational and behavioral interventions. Placement is designed with the expectation that the student will benefit from the program and move towards the goal of returning to the base school. The program presently serves students in grades K-8 and a virtual high school program for specifically designated students in grades 9-10 who are working towards a regular high school diploma.

TLC also provides Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services (RBHS) for students who would have required Clinical Day Services and/or out-of-district placement to meet the educational and behavioral/emotional needs of these students. Currently, TLC serves 10 students who would have required out-of district residential placement if TLC had not been in operation at the cost of \$300.00 per day minimally for 365 days per year. The Therapeutic Learning Center, allows students to remain in district and live at home and be provided a quality education and counseling services that would otherwise have to be provided by outside agencies.

- Crisis Management Plans

The District and each school have Crisis Management Plans which outline response procedures in the event of an emergency. Included in the plans are roles and responsibilities of the District and school teams when responding to multiple kinds of emergencies. Plans are updated annually and at least four emergency drills must be scheduled each school year. The drills are monitored and discussed in Assistant Principal Safety Meetings. Fire drills are not included in the four emergency drills because schools are required to conduct fire drills monthly.

- Bullying Prevention/Intervention

Each school in the District has a bullying team with one member of the team serving as the Leader. The Leader or the team should investigate, document findings, resolve the problem, and make follow up a part of the solution. Schools have in place and should be able to articulate an effective bullying intervention system that includes the following components:

1. Highly visible administrative leadership and commitment
2. Clearly defined behaviors for direct and indirect bullying
3. Published specific school rules with consistent sanctions for bullying
4. Operational guidelines for staff via training and resources
5. Reporting system with direct and anonymous channels
6. Review of data
7. Supervision enhanced in trouble spots
8. Intensive support to victims of bullying
9. Social skills behavior training for bullies
10. Ongoing system for training and review

Trainings are provided to school teams as well as resources to assist in preventing bullying. Eight schools participated in the South Carolina Association of Schools

Administrators (SCASA) Olweus Bullying Initiative. This initiative assists schools with identifying if they have a bullying problem and if so, where does it mostly occur, and how to address the problem. Loris Elementary School was selected by SCASA to pilot the Olweus Program.

- Spring 2012 State Survey of Parents

91.9% of parents either "Agree" or "Mostly Agree" that their child "feels safe at school." 4,064 parents responded to the survey question.

- Other Resources

We also maintain an environment conducive to learning by:

1. Utilizing the services of Security Guards, and SROs
2. Walk-Through Metal Detectors and Hand-Held Wands
3. A visitor management screening system is in effect for all schools
4. Tip Line by Horry County Police Department
5. Security Cameras in all schools and on all busses
6. Keyless locks
7. Ongoing project to enclose school foyers in order to channel visitors to the front office.