

Report: Reauthorization Review Visitation
Academy: New Bedford Academy
Date: September 18, 2018

The visitation occurred at the New Bedford Academy Campus with two members on the Ferris State University Charter Schools Office (CSO) visitation team. The team had the opportunity to meet with and interview the school leadership team, ESP representatives, school board member(s) and the School Improvement Team (staff). The team was able to tour the facility and visit several classrooms to observe teaching and learning. We appreciate the open communication and transparency that was apparent with all of our interactions.

Visitation Findings

School Improvement Plan (SIP), EdYes!, Professional Learning Calendar, and other Supporting Documents	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<p>School Improvement Plan (SIP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School leader and ESP Superintendent were familiar with the plan and have started implementing the activities/strategies as indicated. The teachers work collaboratively and share best practices. New SIP. They basically started from scratch. <p>EdYes! School Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is sufficient documentation to support all evidences in this report. (Reviewed last year) 	<p>School Improvement Plan (SIP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue working on developing/using more frequent assessments to determine student groupings (centers) and targeted interventions, which are informed by the data. Consider participating in professional development related to formative assessments and additional instructional strategies as it relates to ability based learning and groupings Continue to utilize resources that use standardized test compatible language in both NWEA and M-Step.

<u>Financial and Facilities Review</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New ESP found expenditure areas to save the Board money. • Building looks good. • Enrollment is increasing. • The facilities were safe, secure, and well maintained. • Student work is prominently displayed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to monitor enrollment. • Utilize new Strategic Plan to drive financial decisions.
<u>Academy Culture Review</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers and administrator have developed a collaborative and caring environment for both staff and students. • There is evidence that there are clear and high behavioral expectations in place for the students. • There is a strong effort in helping every student be successful in the school. • The school community maintains a culture that values learning and promotes academic and personal growth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue efforts to help new students understand and embrace school expectations. • Continue to be conscious of maximizing student-learning time throughout the day. • Consider allowing teachers to identify areas of needed professional growth and then supporting them as needed.
<u>Mission Accomplishment</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers are using data to differentiate instruction based on ability. This practice supports the mission. • Board appears to be re-energized and committed to the Mission of the school with new ESP, building leader, and Strategic Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to hold these important statements in front of you as you implement programs for success. • Continue to encourage students to take ownership of their learning and set goals based on their current abilities. • Continue to work on establishing appropriate ability based groups based on more frequent assessments.

<u>Website</u>	
Observations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website needs to have the MDE mandated Transparency Icon updated and correctly linked to the current information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assign someone at the ESP to periodically monitor the website to ensure required information is current and accurate. Utilize the website for maximum information sharing (handbooks, policies, special events, notices, accomplishments, etc.)

Academy Internal Review

<u>Academic Data</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff is utilizing the NWEA suite of resources to assist in planning instruction and interventions. The school leader has implemented the Curriculum Crafter program this school year to provide teachers with the appropriate resources needed to educate their students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider training for the new Curriculum Crafter program so teachers can “make it their own”, therefore making it more useful in the classroom. Consider creating a math proficiency goal based on M-Step data results from the 2017/2018 school year. Consider educating the Board of Education on the new curriculum.
<u>Governance, Leadership, Organizational Capacity</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New ESP and building leader and revitalized Board. The board successfully created a 3 year Strategic Plan to address academic, financial and safety concerns. The board hired a new management company who has created a strong partnership with the board and has already brought some financial stability to the school and its partnership has energized the members of the board. The board has increased its marketing plan, especially online, and has raised enrollment from 82 in August to 107 in September. The board has a better understanding of the accountability they can place on their management company and the impact they can have on the success of the school. 	<p>The Board should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to look at and review at each board meeting your strategic plan to address the concerns and implement initiatives in a timely manner. Continue your marketing efforts to increase enrollment and/or keep it more consistent. Continue to keep the lines of communication open between the board and the management company.

<u>Curriculum, Instruction, and Interventions</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NBA is improving their instructional procedures by setting clear objectives, modeling, expecting student created deliverables, and creating interventions for unsuccessful students. Curriculum Crafter- for the four core subjects. Teachers are all highly qualified for the areas in which they teach. Adequate technology and online learning opportunities are available for students. The staff in the school know all of the students in the school creating a sense of family and safety. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to train and retrain staff with Curriculum Crafter to maximize the effectiveness and individualization of the product.

CSO Review of Overall Performance for Joy Preparatory Academy

<u>Contract Performance Report Review</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAP growth targets met on 6/10 measures. Third Grade math only grew 2 percentiles last year. Average Proficiency Percentiles exceeded the 50% goal in both Reading and Math. MSTEP Proficiency Percentages are stable. ELA average percentages exceed the State average. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAP growth in Math is lower than Reading- reduce the growth gap. Reduce the gap between your average MSTEP Proficiency Percentage and the State average. Closely monitor your enrollment. Enrollment has been trending down for the last 5 years. Early numbers for current year are encouraging.
<u>School Support Team (SST) Updates</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New strategic plan New management company New building leader. Board appears to be re-energized New curriculum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MSTEP Student Growth Percentiles (SGP) need to improve. In order to move the proficiency percentages in a significantly positive trend the SGP averages must be greater than 50%. Ensure curriculum addresses all of the MSTEP and MAP skills and periodically check for student mastery of the assessed skills.

- Enrollment has increased significantly from last year

- Board and ESP should communicate regularly about how the changes are working and agree on any needed modifications.

Overall Opportunities for Growth

- Improve student performance on math sections of the MAP and MSTEP.
- Communicate with all of your stakeholders about changes and results.
- Continue to keep the enrollment numbers stable and increasing.

Current CSO Expectations in Consideration for Recommendation of Reauthorization. These are subject to change.

For: New Bedford Academy

- Meet or exceed FSU CSO's academic measures and goals.
- Continue to follow all charter contractual expectations.
- The CSO may have other academic and non-academic expectations as more information becomes available. All other contractual and policy standards must be met and maintained.
- NOT be named as a Partnership, Priority, Comprehensive Support, low performing, etc. school by the State of Michigan.
- Remain financially viable.
- Implement the new strategic plan.

Signed James K. Schalter
CSO Visitation Chair

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