

BEST PRACTICES/QUALITY ASSURANCE

TEAM PEER REVIEW REPORT

SACSCASI defines accredited schools as “schools in motion; they are improving schools. While all schools today are expected to engage in a continuous process of improvement, a SACS-accredited school is different in that it meets a set of standards revealed by research and best practice as essential for a quality school, seeks feedback regularly from an external group of professionals conducting a Quality Assurance Review (a process of peer review), and continually demonstrates to its stakeholders that it is providing for quality assurance.”

School Name: Spruce Creek High School

Principal: Dr. Todd Sparger

Peer Review Date: 2/11/2012

Best Practices/Quality Assurance Review Team:

Chair: Kathy Gibbons

Member: James Bambrick

Member: Paul Nehrig

Member: Meg Roa

***Directions:** At least one (1) recommendation must be provided for each of the first five (5) parts of the report. Reviewers will cite best practices from the District Strategic Plan for all recommendations and commendations and, where practical, reference the AdvancED Accreditation Standards for Quality Schools that are met.*

Documents Reviewed: (check all that apply)

- Climate Survey
- Adequate Progress Performance Appraisal (DATA)
- Program Evaluation
- School Improvement Plan

A follow-up inquiry will be sent to schools one year after their peer review to determine their response to the recommendations provided in the BP/QA Peer Review Report.

PART II: COMPREHENSIVE SELF-EVALUATION

- Climate Survey
- Data – Adequate Appraisal
- Needs Assessment
- Program Evaluation

AdvancED Standards:

Purpose and Direction, 1.1 *The school engages in a systematic, inclusive, and comprehensive process to review, revise, and communicate a school purpose for student success;* **1.3** *The school's leadership implements a continuous improvement process that provides clear direction for improving conditions that support student learning.*

Teaching and Learning, 3.1 *The school's curriculum provides equitable and challenging learning experiences that ensure all students have sufficient opportunities to develop learning, thinking, and life skills that lead to success at the next level;* **3.2** *Curriculum, instruction, and assessment are monitored and adjusted systematically in response to data from multiple assessments of student learning and an examination of professional practice;* **3.5** *Teachers participate in collaborative learning communities to improve instruction and student learning.*

Resources and Support Systems, 4.1 *Qualified professional and support staff are sufficient in number to fulfill their roles and responsibilities necessary to support the school's purpose, direction, and the educational program;* **4.2** *Instructional time, material resources, and fiscal resources are sufficient to support the purpose and direction of the school.*

Using Results for Continuous Improvement, 5.2 *Professional and support staff continuously collect, analyze, and apply learning from a range of data sources, including comparison and trend data about student learning, instruction, program evaluation, and organizational conditions;* **5.5** *Leadership monitors and communicates comprehensive information about student learning, conditions that support student learning, and the achievement of school improvement goals to stakeholders.*

A. Commendation(s)/Best Practices

1. Spruce Creek high school is to be commended for their V.E. Mild and Modified Programs - Collaborations, SBE, CBI and the exploratory teaching class. All stakeholders feel the program is very powerful.

Best Practice(s): AE Standard 3.1

2. Spruce Creek is to be commended for all members of the school leadership focused on improving student learning. An Assistant Principal, whose primary assignment is discipline, is assigned to a PLC for teachers who teach a course with an end of course exam.

Best Practice(s): AE Standard 1.3

3. Spruce Creek is to be commended for the "Q Teams". These teams work with lower quartile 9th and 10th graders. The Q teams integrate curriculum (9th grade: English 1/World Cultural Geography, 10th grade: English 2/World History) in order to address the needs of the lower quartile students.

Best Practice(s): AE Standards 3.2, 3.5

B. Recommendation(s)/Best Practices

1. Recommendation: The BPQA Team would like to recommend that the faculty of Spruce Creek High School explore tutoring options for students.

Rationale: During interviews with the students many asked for additional tutoring opportunities. In addition students reflected that peer tutoring in the media center sponsored by one of the academic clubs was also suggested by the students.

Best Practice(s): AE Standard 3.1

PART III: PRIORITIZE IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- Use of Focus Questions
- Interviews with parents, community members, teachers and staff

Advanced Standards:

Purpose and Direction, 1.2 *The school leadership and staff commit to a culture that is based on shared values and beliefs about teaching and learning and supports challenging, equitable educational programs and learning experiences for all students that include achievement of learning, thinking, and life skills.*

Governance and Leadership, 2.4 *Leadership and staff foster a culture consistent with the school's purpose and direction.*

Teaching and Learning, 3.3 *Teachers engage students in their learning through instructional strategies that ensure achievement of learning expectations; 3.4* *School leaders monitor and support the improvement of instructional practices of teachers to ensure student success; 3.7* *Mentoring, coaching, and induction programs support instructional improvement consistent with the school's values and beliefs about teaching and learning; 3.12* *The school provides and coordinates learning support services to meet the unique learning needs of students.*

Using Results for Continuous Improvement

5.1 *The school establishes and maintains a clearly defined and comprehensive student assessment system; 5.3* *Professional and support staff are trained in the evaluation, interpretation, and use of data; 5.4* *The school engages in a continuous process to determine verifiable improvement in student learning, including readiness for and success at the next level.*

A. Commendation(s)/Best Practices

1. The Principal of Spruce Creek High is to be commended for a focused vision and for utilizing data to facilitate the best culture for student achievement. All stakeholders shared how Dr. Sparger's influence and focus on data has created the foundation for student achievement.

Best Practice(s): AE Standards 1.2, 2.4

2. The faculty and staff of Spruce Creek High School are to be commended for the caring supportive collegial environment they have created. In every interview, our team heard evidence of how the staff, teachers, counselors, coaches and administration work as a team to make Spruce Creek High School a high performing school.

Best Practice(s): AE Standards 2.4, 3.12

B. Recommendation(s)/Best Practices

1. Recommendation: The BP/QA Team would like to recommend that Spruce Creek High School work to find a way to shorten the long lines at the stations which provide free/reduced lunch selections.

Rationale: Spruce Creek offers a large variety of clubs, tutoring and activities during their one lunch period. During our interviews stakeholders shared concerned that students who receive free/reduced lunch are at a disadvantage during the school's one lunch hour due to the long lines at stations that serve free/reduced lunch.

Best Practice(s): AE Standards 1.2, 3.12

PART IV: EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

School Improvement Process/Plan

- Performance Levels (Data) / Anticipated Barrier
- Strategies / Process Used to Determine Effectiveness
- Evaluation Tool / Professional Development

AdvancED Standards:

Governance and Leadership, Indicator 2.3 *The governing body ensures that the school leadership has the autonomy to meet goals for achievement and instruction and to manage day-to-day operations effectively;* **2.5** *Leadership engages stakeholders effectively in support of the school's purpose and direction;* **2.6** *Leadership and staff supervision and evaluation processes result in improved professional practice and student success.*

Teaching and Assessing for Learning, 3.6 Teachers implement the school's instructional process in support of student learning; **3.10** Grading and reporting are based on clearly defined criteria that represent the attainment of content knowledge and skills and are consistent across grade levels and courses; **3.11** All staff members participate in a continuous program of professional learning.

Resources and Support Systems, 4.4 Students and school personnel use a range of media and information resources to support the school's educational programs; **4.6** The school provides support services to meet the physical, social, and emotional needs of the student population being served; **4.7** The school provides services that support the counseling, assessment, referral, educational, and career planning needs of all students.

Using Results for Continuous Improvement, 5.2 Professional and support staff continuously collect, analyze, and apply learning from a range of data sources, including comparison and trend data about student learning, instruction, program evaluation, and organizational conditions.

B. Commendation(s)/Best Practices

1. Spruce Creek High School is to be commended for strong connection they have made with their community. This relationship extends to their exemplary volunteer program. The community truly supports this high school.

Best Practice(s): AE Standard 2.5

2. Spruce Creek High School is to be commended creating a Student Advocate position. This position is a T.O.A. position that supports student focused programs like the "Q Team".

Best Practice(s): AE Standard 4.6

3. The faculty and staff of Spruce Creek High School is to be commended for dedication to using data driven research to establish many unique programs that address the needs to all sub populations.

Best Practice(s): AE Standard 5.2

4. The faculty of Spruce Creek High School is to be commended for the diversity of 70+ clubs and activities offered to their student body. It is evident that there is "something for everyone at SCHS.

Best Practice(s): AE Standard 4.6

B. Recommendation(s)/Best Practices

1. Recommendation: The BPQA Team would like to recommend that Spruce Creek High School incorporate job-embedded professional development i.e., Lesson Study, into already established Professional Learning Community meeting opportunities. This will allow PLCs to work collaboratively and focus on best practice instructional strategies to enhance student learning.

Rationale: SCHS faculty and staff have created many unique programs to meet the need of the entire student population. In order to maintain these programs it is important to monitor current research and to explore any enhancements that may need to be made.

Best Practice(s): AE Standard 3.11

PART V: EVIDENCE OF IMPLEMENTATION

Observable Implementation of the Strategic Plan

- Interviews
- On-site Observations
- Documentation

Advanced Standards:

Governance and Leadership, 2.1 *The governing body establishes policies and supports practices that ensure effective administration of the school;* **2.2** *The governing body operates responsibly and functions effectively.*

Teaching and Assessing for Learning, 3.6 *Teachers implement the school's instructional process in support of student learning;* **3.8** *The school engages families in meaningful ways in their children's education and keeps them informed of their children's learning progress;* **3.9** *The school has a formal structure whereby each student is well known by at least one adult advocate in the school who supports that student's educational experience.*

Resources and Support Systems, 4.3 *The school maintains facilities, services, and equipment to provide a safe, clean, and healthy environment for all students and staff;* **4.5** *The technology infrastructure supports the school's teaching, learning, and operational needs.*

Using Results for Continuous Improvement, 5.5 *Leadership monitors and communicates comprehensive information about student learning, conditions that support student learning, and the achievement of school improvement goals to stakeholders.*

C. Commendation(s)/Best Practices

1. Spruce Creek High School is to be commended for cultivate a culture where their students believe it is "cool to be smart".

Best Practice(s): AE Standard 3.9

2. Spruce Creek High School is to be commended for their outstanding International Baccalaureate Program. This distinctive program serves approximately one third of the student body at SCHS and is a model program in the State of Florida.

Best Practice(s): AE Standards 3.6, 5.5

3. Spruce Creek High School is to be commended for there extensive mentoring programs offered to their sub populations. Team Zone, Aspire/Hire, You'nique Girls and 396 (YMCA) are all programs offered to mentor and support the students of SCHS.

Best Practice(s): AE Standard 3.9

4. Spruce Creek High School is to be commended for a having media center that supports innovative technology on this campus. In addition, many new programs are being offered by the media center to support SCHS academic environment.

Best Practice(s): AE Standard 4.5

B. Recommendation(s)/Best Practices

1. Recommendation: The BP/QA Team would like to recommend that Spruce Creek High School explore becoming a BYOT (Bring Your Own Technology) high school.

Rationale: Spruce Creek has many innovative programs that involve technology. There are some limitations to the technology resources available to the students. Many of the students have their own technology. It would be a win/win situation for Spruce Creek to be a BYOT school.

Best Practice(s): AE Standard 4.5

2. Recommendation: The BP/QA Team would like to recommend that Spruce Creek High School continue to work on the maintenance of their facility.

Rationale: Many stakeholders shared their concerns about the age and condition of the facility. While every effort is being made to maintain this facility, the age of the facility limits those efforts.

Best Practice(s): AE Standard 4.3

PART VI

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The Best Practices/Quality Assurance Peer Review Team found **Spruce Creek High** school to be an outstanding school with a faculty and staff that is committed to providing a quality education for all students. It is evident that administration and faculty have made student achievement, and closing the achievement gap, as a priority evidenced by Spruce Creek consistently receiving a school grade of "A". The school has an innovative and proactive staff that has implemented several unique programs to meet the needs of all students. In summary, we found Spruce Creek High to be a model school that the entire Spruce Creek family should be proud of.