

## Perry County Schools

The Perry County School system is made up of two elementary schools (PreK-6) and two high schools (7-12). We serve approximately 1600 students. The Perry County School System has been designated as Provision 2, which classifies the system as a high poverty area and all of the students eat lunch free. One hundred percent (100%) of the students are free and reduced under the current Child Nutrition Program Standards.

After completing the initial phase of learning support--absenteeism, the lack of motivation and parental involvement have been identified as barriers that are affecting student achievement. Our goal is to develop a plan that will encourage and motivate our students to become interested in their education.

During the initial phases, Dr. Rhonda Waltman visited two of the schools in Perry County and was impressed with the organization of how the elementary principal at Albert Turner conducted her staff meeting. Before visiting the schools Dr. Waltman met with the district team and mentioned how the agenda of meetings should focus on instruction, management, and learning support. Also while meeting with the elementary principal, she discussed how her faculty had to select one of the following teams to work on--grade level teams, culture/atmosphere, or curriculum. Dr. Waltman was elated because the mission was accomplished without her having to discuss the three areas. Mrs. Pelt's organization addressed the areas of management (grade level teachers), culture/atmosphere (learning support), and curriculum (instruction). Now that the question "What is Learning Support" has become clear, we are providing support. It just became obvious that we needed to organize it the specific content areas.

Learning support has encouraged our district leadership team to collaborate and not assume that we are aware of what each other is working on as it relates to instruction, management and learning support. Since our last meeting with Dr. Waltman, we are meeting weekly as a leadership team. We are managing our time based on the format of student achievement, management of resources, and learning support. We have realized the importance of "cleaning our closet". As district leaders, we have to model our expectations, if we expect the schools to follow.

### Our Next Steps

1. Involving our community stakeholders so they can assist with the identified barriers.
2. Continue gathering and analyzing data to guide instruction