

*Section 4: Methods Employed to Provide Quality Assurance -**A description of quality assurance methods used to monitor student learning and organization effectiveness*

The West Feliciana Parish School System (WFPSS) is dedicated to excellence, striving to provide the best possible educational experience for every child in the parish. Our core business is student achievement. To ensure that all students are engaged in quality educational activities which enable them to attain maximum growth, a variety of measures are in place to assure a quest for continuous improvement.

Professional development is one component of continuous improvement. The district provides both the time and the means for educators to grow professionally. Effective professional development at the district level is supplemented by staff development at each school, where teachers and administrators work as a team to determine school-level professional development needs. In addition, teachers and administrators attend and present at numerous professional conferences and are active participants in after-hours meetings, programs, and activities.

The district and individual schools utilize test data and other information to evaluate efforts for continued enhancement of education. Stakeholder feedback is gathered through both informal and formal means. In addition to surveys conducted by individual schools and/or programs, stakeholders (students, teachers, staff members, parents, and community members) participated in a formal self-study assessment, utilizing surveys provided by NSSE (National Study of School Evaluation) in the Spring of 2007. These

surveys addressed all aspects of school life in West Feliciana Parish Schools. In addition to stakeholder input, teachers, administrators, and supervisors analyze individual standardized test results as well as trend data; examine current educational research and best practices; revise activities and timelines in the Louisiana Comprehensive Curriculum (LCC) to best meet the needs of students; engage in relevant professional development; and evaluate adherence to SACS/CASI standards. The stakeholders of the district and each school write a Mission, Vision, and Statement of Beliefs that provide the philosophical framework for improvement. Shared educational mission and beliefs combined with analysis and evaluation of relevant information guides planning and implementation of the District Improvement Plan (DIP) and each school's Improvement Plan (SIP). With the SIP in place, progress is monitored and evaluated throughout the year to assure attainment of goals and objectives. Using the School Improvement Plan and current test data, teachers continue to amend the LCC throughout the school year to provide optimal instruction for all students.

External assessment follows the guidelines implemented by the Louisiana State Department of Education as all employees are formally observed on a yearly basis, with formal evaluations occurring during the first three years and every third year thereafter. New teachers participate in the Louisiana Teacher Assistance and Assessment Program (LATAAP), a two year program in which teachers work closely with a mentor who assists them through a comprehensive observation/assessment process. New administrators take part in the Louisiana Educational Leader Induction Program. Informally, supervisors and school administrators conduct walk-throughs on a regular basis to monitor instruction and organizational

effectiveness. Supervisors monitor the Comprehensive Curriculum and School Improvement Plans at each school. In addition, each school documents how they are meeting the SACS/CASI standards.

To provide a formal, standardized approach to monitoring for quality assurance, the district has established District Monitoring Teams. These teams are comprised of school board level supervisors, school site administrators, and teachers who hold National Board Certification. They visit each school twice a year and conduct a full day observation/assessment. During the day, team members use a rubric designed to assess school climate and procedures as they observe all facets of school life. In addition, team members use an additional rubric to evaluate instruction as they visit and observe in each teacher's classroom. The school visits are designed to evaluate instruction, climate, and routines and to monitor alignment with SACS/CASI standards and use of the Comprehensive Curriculum. These visits have become a valuable tool in evaluating school and district efforts for continuous improvement.

Continuous improvement is vital to student performance. A quest for excellence lies at the heart of the self-study process and the ensuing implementation of the district and school instructional plans. The district is committed to continually improving its efforts to empower students to be active learners and productive citizens, preparing them for life in a global society. To realize this goal, the West Feliciana Parish School System closely monitors its progress, ensuring continuous improvement of student achievement.