

Input from Previous Strategic Plan Task Force Members

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following are key points identified by previous Strategic Plan Task Force members regarding the 2005-2010 Strategic Plan and implications to development of a new strategic plan for the district.

- Counselors are working on too many things and not devoting enough time to students; and, there are not enough counselors.
- Need to do a better job of maintaining current contact information for parents; the high mobility of many families is a challenge.
- Need to have more preventative rather than reactionary actions; make sure departments don't action in isolation, and look at trends and monitoring.
- PBS is a success in that it provides a strong foundation, but also a shortfall since it is an optional program and not implemented on all campuses.
- The grant funding for PBS is running out, and district funding will need to increase to maintain and expand the program.
- This group should be thanked for supporting PBS – disciplinary actions at PBS schools have decreased significantly.
- Need to look for the connection between data/results and cultural values – there are some major cultural disconnects.
- Need more training on cultural connections for ALL staff – assess the quality and effectiveness of the training. (There may be some challenge in agreeing on the training, but the previous task force on cultural connections provided several clear recommendations.)
- Cultural connections needs a home – someone to promote and monitor it – but the Diversity Director position has been proposed for elimination.
- Several AISD and City of Austin task forces and committees have all agreed on cultural connections and diversity issues.
- Holistic educational experience does NOT equal teaching to tests, especially at underachieving schools; we're just teaching kids to get by, with very minimal skills.
- Principals are also pressured by TAKS results, and entire campuses may be affected by this.
- Need to have better connections between various local and regional planning efforts; city and district policies are not always compatible (e.g., preferred growth areas versus student transfer policies).
- The Strategic Plan doesn't address HUB participation; district data are misleading.
- Training doesn't always trickle down to the classroom – the same for what task forces recommend.
- Need a greater student voice; include more than just a few high school students for the next plan.