

Quality Assurance

Rienzi Elementary School

Quality Assurance

2002-2007

Quality Assurance involves the strategies and actions that a school employs to ensure that the students at Rienzi Elementary School meet the goals and achieve the mission and vision determined to be in their best interest. The quality assurance methods used by the faculty and staff at Rienzi include but are not limited to formal and informal observations, meetings, and evaluations. The administration at Rienzi Elementary School supports and encourages all teachers and students to excel at leadership. Rienzi Elementary School principal, Stan Platt, is the chairperson of all committees and he encourages the teachers to establish their own leadership roles.

Rienzi Elementary School's School Improvement Team has been actively involved in providing leadership and support for the implementation of the school improvement plan. The school improvement team and committees have met on a regular schedule to oversee the progress in carrying out the action steps contained in the School Improvement Plan. The school improvement team and committees have been involved in working together with staff, parents, and community members to support the effective implementation of the strategies for improvement. Opinion Inventories have been completed based on the National Study of School Evaluation (1997). We attended focused school improvement meetings, and served on committees during the years of 2002-2007.

In order to document progress made in achievement, by Rienzi Elementary School, the school improvement team along with our principal, discussed with the teachers during the August of the 2002-2006 school years staff development meetings the importance of carrying out the school improvement goals. Documentation of Action Plan success involved the results of the Mississippi Curriculum and Writing Test, STAR Reading Assessment, and Accelerated Reader. Based on this documentation, the school improvement team and the committees met to discuss student achievement, and effectively developed new plans for student progress.

Due to the small nature of our school, the teachers and staff each contributes to the knowledge of what curriculum decisions are being made in every classroom. The small nature of our school makes it problematic in creating sub committees; therefore, all teachers have a voice in decision making. Mr. Platt our school principal has devised a plan that will counter act the problem with sub committees. The first Wednesday afternoon of every month has been set aside for faculty meetings. In these meetings, we discuss all areas that need attention.

Quality assurance comes from using test data to drive the curriculum and to meet the needs of our students. Teachers gather data from the Mississippi Curriculum Test (MCT), the Fourth Grade Writing Assessment, and the Terra-Nova to determine whether or not students need remediation or enrichment. The teachers also use, Math Masters, Star Reading and DIBELS assessment programs, along with the K-2 Breakthrough to Literacy program for remediation and enrichment of the targeted students. Data provides information that is valuable in determining whether or not a child qualifies for special services, gifted education, speech, or the After School Program. Teachers use pre-tests to determine what students already know and what areas need additional attention. The teachers here at Rienzi also implore the abilities of the accelerated students by offering the after school ACCEL program for the gifted. One other plus to quality assurance has been the implementation of the Teacher Support Team. The Teacher Support Team addresses the problems of individual students. Steps are set fourth to help each child succeed in the classroom. After the classroom teacher has worn out all of his/her individual ideas and/or resources, the Teacher Support Team provides additional support and ideas.

In order to disseminate information to the parents and community, Rienzi Elementary has implemented a variety of techniques such as, weekly student work folders, newsletters, letters from teacher, principal and parent-teacher committee, and parent conferences, in person and by phone. These documents include things such as school events, state mandated test scores, school accreditation, student progress and achievement. Every August, an open house is held the night before school begins the next day. We also have an open house conducted at the end of the first six weeks of school. At this time report cards distributed and parent teacher conferences are held. Other events include Grandparent's Day, Doughnuts with Dad, Muffins with Mom and a six week award program. The school maintains a web page located on the www.alcorn.k12.ms.us web site for parents, students and community members. This website is in the process of being updated.

The administration of Rienzi Elementary school is primarily in charge of all finances. Money is allotted to Rienzi based on a per student enrollment. It is the responsibility of the school administration to make sure that all required educational materials are purchased as needed at each grade level based on what each teacher has reported to need. Each certified classroom teacher is allotted supply money into an account at the end of the school year. This money may be spent as needed by the teacher to by classroom supplies. The resource teachers are allotted money by the district Special Services Director. Title teachers request money as needed from the Title I director. Each grade level is required to submit a schedule to be approved by the principal. The activity scheduling is completed by the whole staff and the principal during the opening faculty meeting for each new school year. Because of the split staff of some years, scheduling of activity time is problematic and few choices are given.

At Rienzi Elementary our students are our number one priority. We as a faculty and staff feel like we have maintained quality assurance. We also feel that our methods are adequate at this time. As a faculty and staff we are adamant that our methods should be monitored to keep this high state of quality assurance.

