

Ongoing School Improvement

Schoolwide Areas of Strength

1. Established BRIDGES Charter School as a magnet for families interested in experiencing Whole Child education including both an on-site program and a Homeschool independent study program.
2. Developed a learning community of educators, students and families that work together to provide a creative, stimulating, hands-on, experiential instructional program. This included an innovative Outdoor Classroom project that included all grade levels working together with businesses, parents and community members.
3. Created a culture with shared values and a community that lives in accordance with principles of healthy living, sustainability, peaceful respectful interactions and conflict resolution.
4. Institutionalized regular Circle Time and Council processes to develop personal responsibility, community loyalty and social-emotional confidence.
5. Began the process of increased academic rigor through development of scope and sequence - expected learning results, common assessments, data analysis and collaboration about effective instructional practices.
6. Expanded the middle school component with departmentalized team teaching.
7. Established a positive school governance model in which the Board and the Director work together as a team with clear understanding of their different roles and responsibilities and promote a respectful inclusive culture within the school community.

Critical Areas for Follow-up

The Visiting Committee concurs with the schools following critical areas for follow-up:

1. The Administration and Staff need to implement the plan to increase student achievement in the area of Mathematics through provision of ongoing staff development, and determining instructional strategies and support systems that will ensure continued student growth on benchmark and summative measures of math achievement.
2. The Administration needs to create and implement a plan to develop technology expertise and capacity for both teaching and learning 21st century skills including the identification of resources for continual replacement and upgrading of equipment and software.
3. The Administration and Staff need to institutionalize the process of aligning curriculum materials, instruction and assessment with the Common Core Standards and the testing program.
4. The Administration needs to provide continual opportunities for ongoing articulation and sharing of best practices about ways to "differentiate learning" to address the needs, interests and learning styles of all students and to address the spectrum from remediation to acceleration.