



Massachusetts Accountability Report Card

A continuous improvement document for school counseling outcomes

M.A.R.C.



Agawam Junior High School

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 www.agawampublicschools.org

DISTRICT: Agawam

GRADE LEVELS: 7 and 8

SCHOOL YEAR: traditional

PRINCIPAL: Mr. Norman Robbins

ENROLLMENT: 739

Principal's Comments

I am knowledgeable about and in support of the district's efforts towards implementing the Mass Model. A more proactive, preventative approach to school counseling services will benefit our students. I continue to be committed to working with the counseling staff on how to increase their ability to serve the needs of all of our students, while also managing the considerable demands of a percentage of individual students and their families.

Norman Robbins, Principal

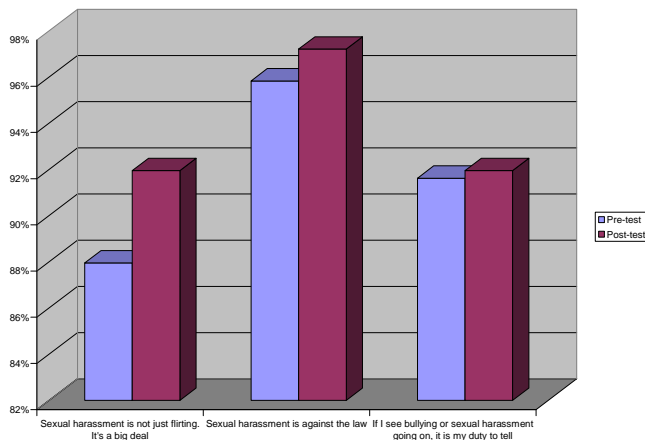
witnessed a classmates being mean to others at school during the past month.

As a result of our lesson, 83% of students learned the acronym SAFE (Stand positive and strong, Avoid the situation, Find support and Express your feelings). Students understanding that name calling relates to particular attributes (e.g. gender, sexual orientation, etc.) increased by an average of 10%.

Other interventions and activities related to school climate and safety were a CAMFEL multi-media presentation on resisting negative peer pressure, a one-man theatre presentation on the history of race relations, Mix it Up Week, Diversity in our Schools Week, Peer Mediation, and Project Teamwork.

School Climate and Safety

In response to an online bullying situation, the counseling department offered a school-wide assembly. We designed a PowerPoint presentation on bullying and harassment. As a result of our presentation, there was an increase in students' understanding of what constitutes sexual harassment as demonstrated below. Also, students who recognized that it's not tattling to tell on a bully increased from 83% to 92%.

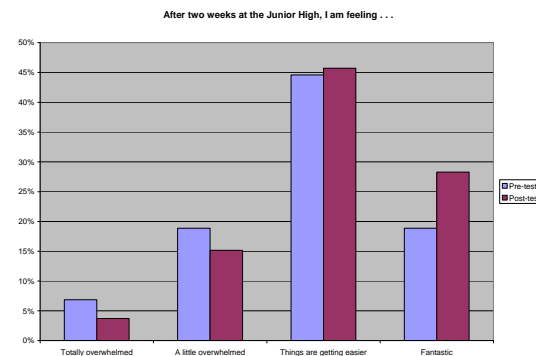


Further, we offered lessons to all 7th graders as part of "No Name Calling Week". 38% of 7th graders reported being called a name this school year that they didn't like on a frequent or semi-frequent basis. For 24%, they were called names at least 3-4 times during the past month. 85% of students have

Student Results

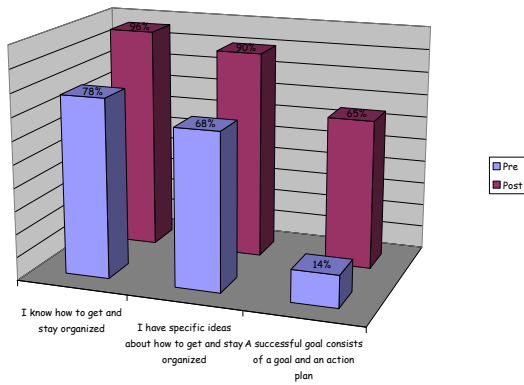
As a result of our initial Tools for Success classroom lesson, students learned about who we are, what we do and how to contact us. We also have noticed anecdotally several instances of students contacting us as a result of being introduced in the lesson.

Also, as result of our lesson, 7th grade students felt less overwhelmed and more optimistic about their transition to the Junior High.



As a result of our Organization 101 lesson, students gained some strategies for how to keep organized.

Organization 101 Pre- and Post-test Data

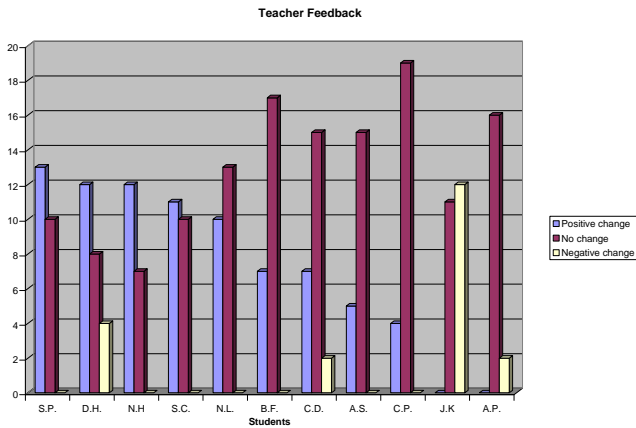


One of our counseling department goals was to reduce the failure and retention rates. We implemented the WhyTry curriculum with two groups of 7th graders and two groups of 8th graders. As a result of our 7th grade Why Try group, 8 out of 12 participants are passing for the year as of 3rd quarter. In the spreadsheet below, yellow represent passing grades and purple represents passing 3rd quarter averages.

	English				Math				Science				Social studies				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	AVG	Q1	Q2	Q3	AVG	Q1	Q2	Q3	AVG	Q1	Q2	Q3	AVG	
Adam*	60	64	10	45	57	73	65	65	80	81	88	83	66	65	60	63	3
Anthony*	64	69	64	72	64	64	75	69	60	65	81	69	80	69	82	77	4
Courtney*	64	45	64	58	64	65	65	65	74	74	72	73	60	60	60	60	2
Dylan	64	64	64	64	70	80	84	78	75	70	65	70	60	71	65	65	3
John*	66	60	60	62	60	65	23	49	79	65	65	70	80	70	60	70	2
Nick H	64	70	70	68	61	61	65	62	60	60	60	60	60	65	70	65	2
Starr	66	73	70	72	65	65	81	70	71	70	58	66	65	65	65	65	4
Stephanie	64	64	68	65	64	64	64	64	69	65	65	66	60	65	60	62	2
Amber	64	64	65	64	70	64	64	66	62	64	65	64	65	63	60	63	1
Blake	64	64	64	64	64	65	64	64	55	55	55	55	60	65	60	62	0
Chris*	64	64	64	64	61	61	61	61	59	54	64	59	60	65	60	62	0
Nick L*	60	64	65	63	60	58	40	53	56	64	68	63	64	64	60	63	0

*retained

Teachers reported a significant positive change for 5 out of 11 students as seen below.



All 11 students reported that attending WhyTry was very helpful or somewhat helpful and recommend it for other students who are not doing well in school. The students valued the encouragement and peer support, as well as the poster lessons. They took away the essential meaning behind the lessons. 7 out of 11 felt more motivated to do their homework and keep their grades up.

We offered two six-week social skills groups, one for girls and one for boys. As a result of the intervention, five out of eight students reported an improvement in making new friends and becoming more comfortable in social situations.

Measurements

We have made it a habit to change from just doing good work to automatically including measurable outcomes to our interventions. We include in all our lessons pre- and post-tests and surveys primarily on *Zoomerang* as well as anecdotal observations.

Focus for Improvement

We will continue to work towards our goal of increasing student achievement.

Agawam Junior High School is changing over to a Team structure next year. We will work to integrate ourselves into the teaming model and increase the effectiveness of our collaborations with teachers to increase student achievement.

We will streamline the website process so we can keep it up to date and more actively use it as a communication tool.

Major Achievements

We are making progress towards full implementation of the Mass Model. In our second year, we have increased our implementation of small group counseling by offering four WhyTry groups, three social skills groups, grief group and several responsive groups.

We presented at the spring MASCA conference on “Setting up Small Group Counseling in Middle Schools”.

We received High Honors for our MARC Junior that we submitted last year.

Parent/Guardian Volunteer Involvement

This year we created an Advisory Council consisting of counselors, administrators, parents, teachers, students and community members. We met three times to inform the members about our program and to elicit feedback.

We welcome parent and community volunteers. Please contact the counseling office at 413-821-0566 to inquire about volunteer opportunities.

Community Partnerships/Resources

In partnership with the Career Center at Agawam High School and the Agawam Chamber of Commerce, all the 7th graders took a half-day field trip to area businesses. Our 8th grade Career Day was presented by 24 area businesses professionals. They gave up a few hours of their day to discuss their career and how students might pursue a career in that field.

As part of our monthly district counselor meetings, we invited several professionals from the community to attend and speak to us. These included the grief group facilitators, a probation officer, DCF staff, and an adjustment counselor from a neighboring town.