

BERLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Berlin Public Schools opened the 2011-2012 school year with an enrollment of 1291 students K-12 and closed the school year with an enrollment of 1280. Kindergarten was offered in six half-day sessions. Most class sizes ranged from 12-30. Berlin is a Regional Career and Technical Education Center at Berlin High School with an enrollment of 190 students grades 9-12 from Berlin and Gorham area. The district hired 260 employees.

Grade levels K-2 are at Brown School, gr. 3-6 at Hillside School, gr. 7-8 at Berlin Jr. High School, and gr. 9-12 at Berlin High School. Special education offices and Title I (Federal project for disadvantaged students) offices are based at the Marston School building. The district's central office is in the Hillside School building. The district's bus fleet of 10 are at a commercial garage on Third Ave.

Instruction & Assessment

The District Improvement Team has embraced three instruction and assessment goals that are designed for implementation in all grades K-12 to improve student achievement in Reading and Math. Those are:

- Response-To-Intervention model (RTI) 3-Tier Model: TIER I (instruction to all students), TIER II (supplemental instruction to some students, about 20-30%), TIER III (intensive instruction for about 5-10%)

Demographics

Public Schools the 2011-2012

- Data Teams to develop instruction based on student assessments
- Parent and Community Engagement, increase participation and access

All students in grades 3-8 and grade 11 were administered the NECAP (New England Common Assessment Program), the statewide testing, in October, for Reading and Math. Grade 5, Grade 8, and Grade 11 were also assessed in Writing. In May, grade 4, 8 and 11 were tested in Science. There was an increase in the number of students who attained Proficiency in the following grade levels and subjects:

- Grade 3 - 20% more students proficient in both Reading and Math
- Grade 5 - 10% more students proficient in Math, 16% more students proficient in Writing
- Grade 6 - 16% more students proficient in Reading, 13% more students proficient in Math
- Grade 8 - 12% more students proficient in Reading, 7% more students proficient in Math
- Grade 11 - 8% more students proficient in Reading, 4% more students proficient in Writing

Under the guidelines of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Districts and Schools are given a designation of "districts in need of improvement" and "schools in need of improvement" if state testing results aren't indicative of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in each student subgroup: race, disabilities, low socio-economic and gender.

Berlin is designated as a District In Need of Improvement (DINI) in reading and math, Berlin High School is designated as a School In Need of Improvement (SINI) in

reading and math, Berlin Jr. High School is designated as a School In Need of Improvement (SINI) in reading, Hillside School is designated as a SINI in reading and math, Brown School is a SINI in reading and math. These designations will continue until the federal goal of 100% of the students reach the benchmark by 2014.

Staff Accomplishments

The administrative team was selected by the N.H. Dept. of Education to be one of two N.H. districts to participate in Academy of Pacesetter Districts. Administrators are developing a resource guide identifying district strengths and best practices based on national indicators. Upon completion of the guide, Berlin Schools will be featured as a pacesetter district to other N. H. school districts.

The District In Need of Improvement Team (DINI Team) developed the district improvement plan that included specific K-12 goals. The action plan completed to meet our goals includes:

- Professional development in writing process, K-8
- Developed a multiyear curriculum review process
- Consultation and facilitation with school teams to implement RTI, data teams and increase parent and community engagement
- Parent/teacher/student conferences were held Dec., 2011. Parent participation rates were: Brown School 92%, Hillside School 97%, Berlin Jr.High School 97%, Berlin High School 93%
- Increase in parent communication requiring a minimum of 2 phone contacts per student, K-12

District-wide committees met to address: "Wellness for staff and students", "Professional Development" to coordinate all staff activities and individual professional development plans, "Bullying Law implementation", "K-11 NECAP administration" for consistent interpretation of NECAP proctoring.

Parent/Community/Board Involvement

A parent/teacher/student conference day was scheduled for Dec. 9, 2011 for all grades K-12. In grades K-6, teachers reviewed student progress with parents, in grades 7-12 students reviewed their portfolios with parents. Parent participation rates were strong.

Family nights were held at Brown and Hillside schools based on a literacy theme. 150 attendees at Brown School participated in literacy events centered on a theme, "Dino-mite Family Fun Night" and 303 attendees at Hillside School with a theme "Catch the Reading Wave". These events were sponsored by the Title I Program.

Students at all grade levels visited local establishments for community service, learning about safety on the job, science education, fine arts performances, job shadows and internships. Various programs were offered for career planning, financial literacy, health fair and performing arts.

Brown School instituted a "Walking Wednesday School Bus". A grant was awarded to develop a walking program to encourage more students to walk to school. This was sponsored by the N.H. Department of Transportation. The school committed to four areas of focus:

Evaluation, Education, Encouragement and Enforcement. Assistance is provided by Berlin Police Dept. and Berlin Public Works.

After-School programming is offered to all students grades K-8. 152 students participated. This is a collaborative program with the Family Resource Center, Project Youth. The program includes homework club, use of technology, curriculum extension from the regular school day, enrichment activities with hands-on learning.

Berlin Board of Education members were: Nicole Plourde, Chair, Nathan Morin, Vice-Chair, Ken Proulx, Secretary, Louise Valliere and Donald Labrecque. The Berlin Board of Education regretfully accepted the resignation of school board member Karin Dorval. Donald Labrecque was appointed by the Mayor and City Council to fill the vacancy.

Board member training was provided in January, March and May, 2012.

The Berlin Board of Education signed an amended AREA (Authorized Regional Enrollment Area Plan) with Milan for a minimum of three years. The Board also signed a Tuition Agreement with Dummer for students in grades 7-12.

A community grant from the Tillotson Foundation was awarded for SAU#3 Berlin and SAU#20 Gorham, Randolph, Shelburne Coop., Milan, Dummer and Errol to hold community forums in each town. Citizen input and discussions were facilitated by outside professionals to engage North Country residents on the organization of North Country Schools. Public surveys were also conducted to ensure opportunity for all tax payers to provide opinions on: 1)

consolidating the administrative units, 2) sending all Gorham High School students to Berlin, 3) sending all Berlin Middle School students to Gorham, and 4) no education and school changes.

The Berlin Board of Education continued the process of district policy revisions. The following individual policies were either added as new or revised: BCB Board Conflict of Interest, EDCA Employee Use of Electronic Communication Devices, and EDCA-R Employee Use of Cellular Phones.

The Berlin Board members engaged in contract negotiations with the Berlin Education Support Staff and with ASFCME Local #1444.

The city FY13 appropriation is \$16,731,124. The goal is to maintain N.H. Approved Schools, Berlin High School accreditation by New England Association of Schools and Colleges and to provide a rigorous academic program to prepare our students with college and career readiness skills.

Visit us at:

www.berlinnh.gov/Pages/BerlinNH_School

Respectfully Submitted,
Corinne E. Cascadden
Superintendent of Schools