



Roadmap to Educational Excellence 2011-2014

Mission Statement

The Bethlehem Area School District (BASD), in partnership with the home and community, is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment in which each student will attain the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to become a productive citizen and lifelong learner in our technologically demanding and culturally diverse society.

Our Destination -The Bethlehem Area School District will once again be recognized as one of the top districts in the state. The BASD will be a model for meeting student needs while serving as a responsible steward of the community's resources.

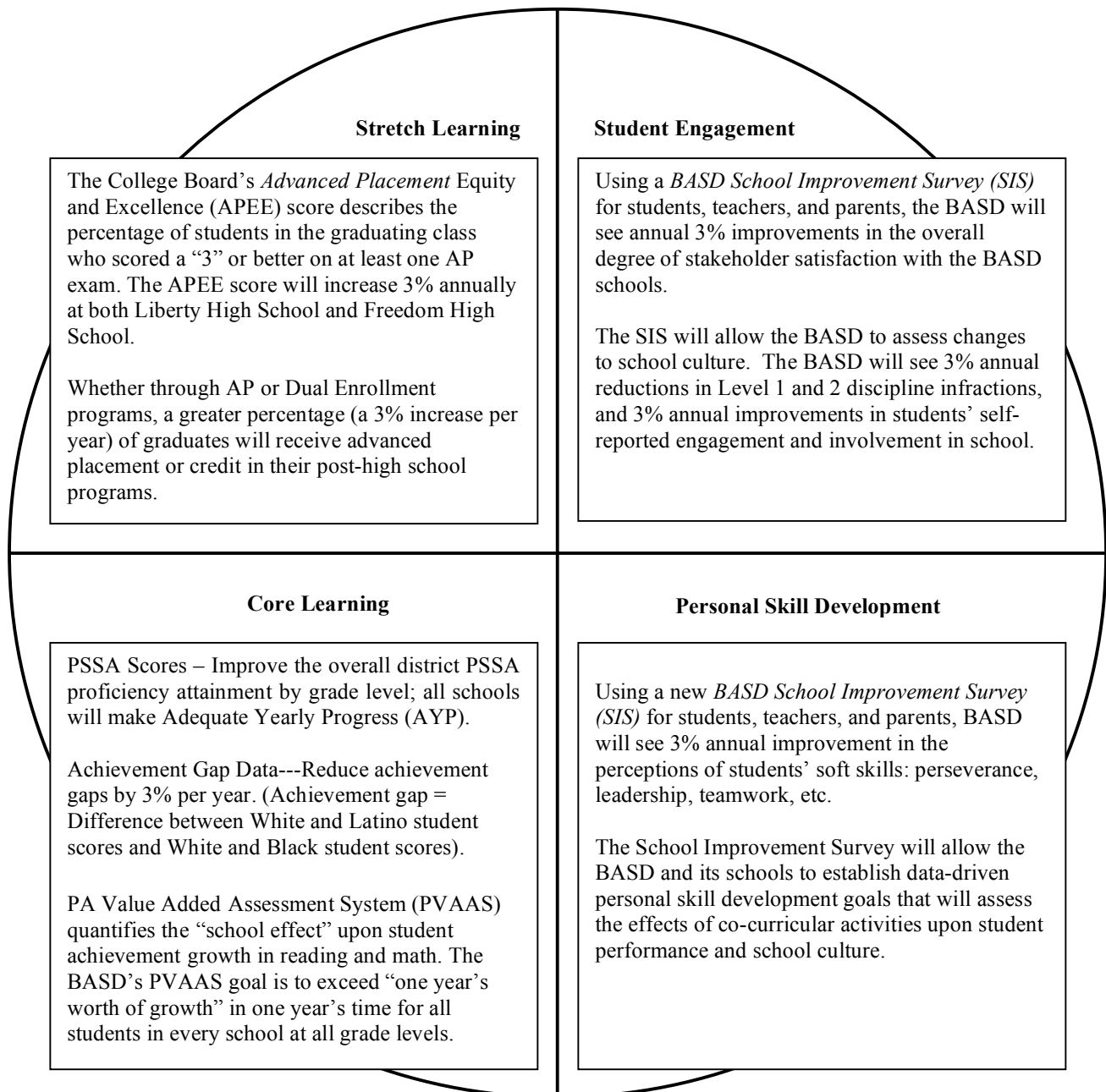
Formula for Excellence – The BASD recognizes a simple formula for excellence consisting of two ingredients: ***high expectations*** and ***high support***. High expectations for student academic achievement (rigor) is matched with high support initiatives such as effective classroom instruction and tutorial help for students in need. High expectations include student decorum and school safety. High support for student behavior must include services that help students recognize the impact of poor behavior and strategies that give them the tools to change that. The excellence framework of high expectations matched with high support extends to adults as well. Our teachers, administrators and support staff should be expected to perform at high levels while we simultaneously provide the support in the form of professional development to help us meet those high expectations.

District and School Improvement—The BASD believes that school improvement means more than improving standardized test scores. The BASD has adopted a school improvement model that includes data-driven goal setting in four interdependent areas: core learning, stretch learning, student engagement, and personal skill development. BASD schools will achieve the core learning goal of all students becoming proficient readers, writers, and mathematicians. Beyond core learning, each student must stretch to excellence in an area of personal strength; BASD graduates must be college or career ready when leaving our schools. Yet to be academically successful, BASD students need to be engaged in school activities that build a strong sense of belonging and community. Finally, BASD students must show the personal, soft skills of perseverance, teamwork, and leadership required of successful 21st Century citizens.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK AND PERFORMANCE GOALS

The Four Learning Criteria from the International Center for Leadership In Education

The fundamental purpose of our school district is to prepare graduates for life in an interdependent and competitive global community. As such, setting specific performance goals for schools and students is appropriate (with 2010-2011 being a benchmarking year).



The following educational program and fiscal goals are designed to support the educational performance goals:

Educational Program Goals

Develop Rigorous Curriculum and Assessment – A guaranteed, rigorous, and relevant curriculum is linked by research to improved student learning. The BASD will develop a systematic approach to meeting the challenges posed by the more rigorous *Core State Standards*, PA Graduation Requirements, and *Keystone Exams*. BASD curriculum and assessment must align to those more rigorous standards, as well as guarantee that information technology and learning materials are available to support the curriculum.

Foster Positive Relationships – Student learning is maximized when positive relationships and a safe orderly school climate are the norm. We will be proactive in building supportive relationships with students and integrate a more restorative school culture with the Student Code of Conduct.

Enhance Student Engagement Beyond the Classroom – Student learning increases when students are actively involved in all aspects of school life. A greater percentage of students will participate in co-curricular activities that develop teamwork, leadership, and school identity.

Provide Professional Development for High-Quality Instruction – High quality instruction is a powerful variable in the teaching/learning process. Professional Development must be relevant, on-going, and classroom-focused. Our priority in this area includes refining the B-Flex program and providing in-service programs focused on literacy, mathematics, and improved student-teacher relationships.