

John F. Kennedy Elementary School

# School Improvement Plan

2010-2011

**School Council Members and Contributors**  
**2009-10**

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**John F. Kennedy School Improvement Plan  
2010 - 2011**

**Goal: 1. To nurture a school culture that embraces constant learning and systematically examine our instruction and assessment practices to ensure optimal student learning.**

**Objective: A. To continue to expand differentiated learning experiences and encourage data driven instruction**

<b>Action Steps</b>
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1. Continue the process of recruiting, assigning, training, and utilizing volunteers in order to enhance teachers' abilities to provide differentiated learning experiences.
2. Continue the *Author in Residence Program* at all grade levels with an emphasis on cultural diversity. Encourage teachers to "revisit" often the authors' objectives/message with the students.
3. Create additional opportunities for the use of adult and high school volunteers in school enrichment programs, particularly focusing on after school opportunities for high school volunteers.
4. Continue the use of alternative challenges and exhibitions (essays, Continental Math, geography bee, art, music, literature, physical, oratories, spelling bee) to provide multiple and varied opportunities for students to excel. Encourage attendance of parents and community members.
5. Continue to implement the initial stages of the Response to Intervention Model, with specific emphasis on direction and support provided to the teachers through the Instructional Support Team. Evaluate the recently developed RTI forms in the Instructional Support Team. Provide the IST with additional professional development. Utilize Title One tutors to offer Tier Two support (as a part of the RTI model). Continue the 30 minute intervention block this year at each grade level to allow specific support to be provided (no new content). Continue to educate staff re: need for data driven decision making, backwards design, and thoughtful experimentation based on research and differentiated instruction.
6. Support staff with professional development/training, and common planning discussion opportunities during the implementation of the new *Journeys* ELA program. Provide staff support through a coaching model.
7. Continue the professional learning community previously developed in which teachers focus on backward design/understanding by design with the ultimate goal to increase students' ability to apply and transfer understanding of material. Additional groups will focus on "think tank" approaches to implementation of the new *Journeys* ELA program.
8. Focus professional discussion and action plans on continuous improvements to the writing program.
9. Investigate the continuation of some type of Word of the Week program in ELA for the entire school (given the implementation of the new *Journeys* program); add a math facts question each week for all grade levels.
10. Continue year two of the JFK Literacy Magazine.

**Indicators of Accomplishment:**

1. New chairs of Volunteer Program will be oriented. Book Club parent volunteers and any volunteers involved in academic programs will be trained by the Reading Specialist or Math Specialist. Recess and field trip volunteers will be trained by the school psychologist.
2. *Author in Residence Program* will book authors with emphasis on cultural diversity.
3. Growth of enrichment school programs, including additional physically active programs. Encourage the investigation of an "Entrepreneurs Club" as a part of the One Hen CAPE grant. Continue the after school homework club supported by the community service program high school volunteers.
4. Expansion of alternative challenges and exhibitions to include **all learners**; continued emphasis will be placed on public speaking again this year.
5. Staff participation in development and evaluation of new scheduling options, grouping practices, data collection and evaluation and thoughtful experimentation. Tier Two support provided by Title One tutors with additional training provided to teachers re: greater degrees of differentiation, data driven instruction and backwards design. Continue to survey appropriate use of intervention block.
6. Support professional development plan and coaching models for the *Journeys* program. Schedule and meet during weekly common planning (grade level) to discuss issues re: *Journeys* implementation.
7. Professional Learning Communities will focus on developing and sharing units produced through an "Understanding by Design" process. Additional groups will meet to discuss data driven discussion and issues arising during *Journeys* implementation.
8. Staff meeting discussions will focus on continued improvement of the writing program across all grade levels with monthly samples shared and discussed within grade level groups. Writing Gallery will occur 3 X over the year.
9. Principal will continue "Word of the Week program" in modified version depending upon impact of new *Journeys* ELA program. "Math Facts" component weekly.
10. Produce the JFK Literacy Magazine with an effort to have contributions from every student.

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**Goal: 1. To nurture a school culture that embraces constant learning and systematically examine our instruction and assessment practices to ensure optimal student learning.**

**Objective B: To expand the integration of technology to support teaching and learning**

**Action Steps**

1. Use the school's web site and e-mail communication systems to educate parents about current school events and provide links to relevant web sites. Encourage and support teachers in developing their own websites. Begin implementation of state technology standards into all grade level curriculum.
2. Utilize the MCAS preparation (Study Island) and reporting programs (Data Warehouse) to their maximum potential.
3. Increase technology programming for special needs.
4. Continue the paperless communication by utilizing email.

**Indicators of Accomplishment:**

1. Material is displayed on the web site. Technology support for website development and professional development on implementation of state technology standards.
2. MCAS data analyzed, reviewed, and programmatic changes made by staff. Study Island utilized throughout the year by Grades 2 through 5 with at least two training programs provided to teachers in order to best utilize data and reporting mechanisms for Study Island.
3. Full utilization of current software available for Special Ed population with data analyzed re: impact.
4. Email used with at least 99% of JFK families for all communications.

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**Goal 2: To secure resources to support programs for the Canton Public Schools**

**Objective: To enlist the support of the community at large to solidify and to integrate the work of Canton-based organizations such as CAPE into the fabric of the school.**

**Action Steps**

1. Have previous CAPE grant recipient and a CAPE member train new hires on effective CAPE application procedures - once yearly.
2. Encourage CAPE grant recipients to share learning/programs with the staff and the press.
3. Increase involvement of the community at large in the school through programs such as Read-Aloud, Veteran's Day, and our Volunteer program. Specific emphasis will be placed on community connections and "giving back" with the lower grade level students.
4. Continue to co-ordinate with CAPT to ensure expenditure of funds complements curriculum and school programs.
5. Solicit community members to present career and community awareness programs.
6. Conduct the Cultural Connections Awareness Day again at end of school year.

**Indicators of Accomplishment:**

1. CAPE grant application training session conducted by previous CAPE grant recipients and a CAPE member.
2. Dissemination of information at faculty meeting and newspaper article will be published.
3. Marketing campaign to reach people not aware of opportunities within schools
4. Teacher questionnaire regarding programming administered by CAPT.
5. Two Community awareness programs held.
6. Cultural Connections Day planning to occur in School Council in coordination with School Psychologist. Two months of team building slots will be devoted to the preparation of the students to act as "teachers".

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**Goal 3: To educate faculty, staff, students and parents to respect, accept, and understand the diverse global community in which we live.**

**Objective: To expand teachers' and students' appreciation for the cultural differences which make us all unique and to foster an acceptance of these differences.**

**Action Steps**

1. Hire and retain a multicultural faculty and staff.
2. Provide on-going staff development for all faculty and staff around diversity issues.
3. Initiate OPEN CIRCLE team awareness program under the direction of the School Psychologist.
4. Continue the ethnic music program daily during morning announcements. Emphasize major events or people via morning announcements again with an emphasis on diversity and cultural contributions to society.
5. Plan the second annual Cultural Connections Day.
6. Examine the school programs (after school enrichment, alternative challenge/exhibition programs, etc.) to insure that participation rates in school activities by students (and parents) are reflective of the broad diversity within the school community.

**Indicators of Accomplishment:**

1. Job Fairs will be attended and qualified male and minority candidates interviewed.
2. District/school staff professional days directed toward diversity issues.
3. Psychologist trained in Open Circle during summer '10; psychologist will train staff and begin Open Circle during recesses.
4. Ethnic music program and world events/recognition made during morning announcements.
5. Conduct the second annual Cultural Connections Day.
6. Evaluate necessary programming to meet all needs, appropriately advertise, and track attendance.

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**Goal: 4. To strengthen safety initiatives ensuring a positive learning environment**

**Action Steps**

1. Continue to enforce school-wide rules and safety procedures and hold various assemblies to review them. Utilize peer leaders to reinforce safety rules at the school.
2. Continue to monitor safety practices during arrival, dismissal and recess. Particular emphasis will be placed on bus safety with administrators riding busses and determining best solution for safety issues, encouraging parent volunteer opportunities to work at recess (assisting child in developing appropriate play skills), and Open Circle common terminology.
3. Actively promote Internet safety through a variety of media resources (e.g. curriculum materials, web site enhancements, newsletters, and parent meetings.)
4. Adopt and implement the district anti-bullying policy.
5. Enhance the Safe Routes to School Program and apply for appropriate grants.
6. Continue to place emphasis on the Go Green recycling program.

**Indicators of Accomplishment:**

1. Assemblies held. Have older students present to younger students when appropriate. Fire drills, lockdowns and bus evacuation procedures practiced and improved, including educating volunteers.
2. New "monitoring system" established for busses; increase in TRAINED parent volunteers at recess, implementation of Open Circle program/terminology at recess.
3. Information about Internet safety is disseminated.
4. Implement district anti-bullying policy as directed by district administration.
5. Safe Routes to School Program continued with grant money investigated.
6. Go Green Recycling Program continued.