
PLANNED IMPROVEMENT FOR THE SCHOOL AND DISTRICT

This is the final section of the school report card in which your school and district provide information below on areas of success and areas for planned improvement based on your school's improvement plan.

(For report cards disseminated electronically, this information may be provided in a separate document due to differences in the software used. If you are unable to locate this document, please contact your local school or district office.)

Areas of Success

Our committed team continues to move forward, making incremental steps toward the goal of advancing teaching and learning at Manual Middle and High School. Under the watchful eye of a dedicated restructuring committee, we continue to implement with integrity the carefully constructed plans enabling Manual to once again reclaim its rightful place in the academic community. The selection of a partnership with the well-respected Johns Hopkins University lays the foundation for our future success. Johns Hopkins' successful Talent Development High School model undergirds all of our efforts from curriculum to school climate. The 2008-09 school year saw the implementation of 7th and 8th Grade Preparatory Academy, along with the 9th Grade Freshman Academy. Both initiatives brought relevance and rigor to Manual's learning environment. The 2009-10 school year includes the addition of two more academies: the Health, Education, and Human Services Academy and the Business, Industrial and Sustainable Technology Academy. These additions enable us to support four academies, now under one roof. During six years of attendance at Manual, students will now be able to "grow" into their career pathways of choice. What an exciting opportunity for our students in grades seven through twelve!

For us, failure is not an option. All gains are celebrated and recognized as we move toward more lofty attainable goals. Notable achievement has been made in the following areas:

- Student enrollment is up from 585 in 2007 to 764 in 2008-09.
- Increase in student attendance from 88% in 07-08 to 91% in 2008-09
- Course passing rates improved from 69% to 73% in Algebra 1-2 from 2007-08 to 2008-09.
- Improvement by two percentage points in reading on the PSAE and from 15% to 17% in the "all group"
- Increase in the graduation rate in 2007-08 from 74% to 79% in 2008-09
- Student mobility decreased from 40% in 2007-08 to 29% in 2008-09.

Again, we appreciate the support of the community, our parents, our staff, and our students. Without the dedication and support of all parties, the increase in student achievement would not be possible.

Areas of Improvement

- A 90-hour professional development requirement to ensure best practices is used to provide classroom instruction
- Collaboration time for academy and departmental meetings every day from 7:40-8:20 AM
- Implementation of the co-teaching model to meet the needs of our Special Services students
- Adoption of a school-wide student behavior management program
- The creation of an Advisory period to enhance social skill development and form critical relationships with students
- The use of data to make sound instructional decisions to facilitate student achievement
- School-wide incentive program to recognize positive student behavior and promote school attendance
- Hiring of two coaches to support literacy and math

These areas of improvement will assist us in redefining teaching and learning at Manual Middle and High School and progressively move forward in making incremental gains.