

# **YELLOW SPRINGS SCHOOLS**

**2007-2008**

## **EDUCATION PLAN**

**DRAFT**

**April 26, 2007**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The 2007-2008 Education Plan is the primary planning document for the Yellow Springs Exempted Village Schools. It is the district continuous improvement plan and details the vision, mission, program, staffing, and budget for the 2007-2008 school year.

A primary purpose of the plan is to address state-mandated standards as well as local expectations for student achievement and personal growth. Development of the plan is a responsibility of the administrative team; however, data and discussion resulting from Board of Education work sessions, community meetings, staff meetings, advisory teams, and curriculum and special purpose committees inform the content of the plan. Decisions concerning the instructional program and operation of our schools are guided by the content of this plan.

## **VISION**

To create a learning environment where each student will become a socially responsible, self-directed, life-long learner.

## **MISSION**

The mission of Yellow Springs Schools is to create a challenging educational environment where each student contributes to the intellectual and cultural richness of the community and is provided the skills and knowledge to become a socially responsible, self-directed, life-long learner.

## **QUALITY EDUCATION STANDARDS**

### **I. Community and Parent Support:**

The Yellow Springs Schools will engage the community in the educational processes and financial support of the district.

### **II. Whole Life Learning:**

The Yellow Springs Schools will structure experiences facilitating transitions to each level of learning to meet life-time learning goals.

### **III. Integration of Knowledge:**

The Yellow Springs Schools will teach in ways that promote the integration of knowledge, critical thinking, creativity and problem solving.

### **IV. Respect and Responsibility:**

The Yellow Springs Schools will teach and demonstrate the importance of respect and responsibility for a healthy community.

### **V. Individual Instruction:**

The Yellow Springs Schools will provide environments in which the learning needs of individual students are met.

### **VI. Diversity and Inclusion:**

The Yellow Springs Schools will provide a diverse and inclusive educational environment.

## **2006-2007 HIGHLIGHTS**

### **DISTRICT**

(This section will be completed in June 2007)

### **MILLS LAWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

(This section will be completed in June 2007)

### **YELLOW SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL AND McKINNEY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

(This section will be completed in June 2007)

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

(This section will be completed in June 2007)

## **2007-2008 GOALS**

### **I. Academic Performance: The Yellow Springs Schools will meet all state performance standards and local quality standards.**

- a. Review state performance and district data and identify areas of improvement.
- b. Assess intervention/improvement strategies implemented to meet 2007-2008 standards.
- c. Identify and implement strategies to meet 2007-2008 standards including: proficiency tests, achievement tests, the Ohio Graduation Test, graduation rate and attendance.
- d. Assess strategies based on performance data on the 2008 State Report Card.
- e. Compare 2007-2008 Quality Assessment data to 2006-2007 data and develop strategies to address areas of need.

#### **Indicators/Timelines:**

- d. Improved performance on state standards as compared to 2006 State Report Card. Meet Adequate Yearly Progress and Performance Index of at least 90% on 2007 Report Card.
- e. Comparison of quality standard assessments to 2006-2007 benchmarks by July 2008.

### **II. Curriculum and Instruction: The Yellow Springs Schools will review, revise, develop, and implement curricula to meet the instructional needs of each student.**

- a. Review and revision of music curriculum.
- b. Implement the third year of the Mathematics Initiative including strategies to investigate, share, implement and assess best practice.
- c. Implement NCA goals at YSHS that focus on reading literacy.
- d. Create a Literacy Team and begin the 7-12 Literacy Initiative to investigate and implement best practice in reading literacy, including assessment instruments.
- e. Create an MLS Literacy Team to conduct research into best practices, review formative assessment tools, staff development and assessment.
- f. Promote special education support of the district Literacy Initiative through the purchase of high interest leveled reading material for grades 4-12, including the use of the Developmental Reading Assessment for students who score at a limited, basic or low proficient level on State Reading Achievement Tests grades 3-6.
- g. Continue language arts assessment mapping.
- h. Continue to align and bring continuity to the K-6 mathematics curriculum.

### **Indicators/Timelines:**

- a. Review and revision of music curriculum completed by June 2008.
- b. Report of Mathematics Initiative progress to the Board by May 2008.
- c. NCA goals implemented by September 2007.
- d. Grade 7-12 Literacy Team created by the end of September 2007.
- e. LS Literacy Team created by September 2007. DRA reading assessment implemented and analyzed by May 2008.
- f. High interest leveled reading materials purchased and in use by the end of September 2007.
- g. Complete language arts curriculum mapping by June 2008.
- h. K-6 mathematics curriculum mapping completed by June 2008.

### **III. School Climate and Structure: The Yellow Springs Schools will assess school climate and structure and implement program and structural initiatives that reflect the mission of the schools and the values of the district and community.**

- a. Include parents and students in the data-based review and revision of the MLS anti-bullying program.
- b. Investigate opportunities for increased staff collaboration at the elementary level.
- c. Continue to review and revise anti-harassment strategies for grades 7-12.
- d. Collect data and continue to develop strategies to address student disengagement, especially in the upper grades. This may include: early identification, networking with MLS, mentoring, group sessions, guest speakers, and academic counseling.
- e. Implement NCA goals at YSHS that focus on school climate and reading literacy.
- f. Investigate strategies to track student engagement post high school graduation.
- g. Continue special education parent meetings at the secondary level to address topics of interest and concern including: transitions, accommodations and modifications, and the role of the regular education teacher in relation to special needs students.

### **Indicators/Timeline:**

- a. Review of MLS anti-bullying program by June 2008.
- b. Recommendation for increased elementary staff collaboration in 2008-2009 Education Plan (May 2008).
- c. Report on effectiveness of anti-harassment strategies for grades 7-12 to the Board by May 2008.
- d. Data collected and strategies developed to address student disengagement beginning September 2007.
- e. Implement NCA goals by September 2007.
- f. Report status of student engagement as part of Quality Standard assessment by July 2008.

- g. Meetings completed by June 2007.

**IV. Facilities and Transportation: The Yellow Springs Schools will improve and maintain facilities and transportation capabilities that support and enhance instructional and extracurricular programs for each student.**

- a. Complete construction of district multipurpose facility.

**Indicators/Timelines:**

- a. Facility operational by the end of August 2007.

**V. Transition and Finance: The Yellow Springs Schools will maintain staffing and financial support to enhance the instructional program and operations of the district.**

- a. Investigate human resource module and time clock management software.
- b. Continue implementation of Treasurer Office's change to web-based software.
- c. Explore alternative insurance plans to maximize cost savings to district and maintain quality health care.

**Indicators/Timeline:**

- a. Conclude investigation by July 2008
- b. Treasurer Office web-based software implemented by August 2008.
- c. Exploration completed by April 2008

## **MILLS LAWN AREAS OF CONCENTRATION 2007-2008**

### **Language Arts**

Mills Lawn will create a literacy committee that will guide our school wide initiative in Language Arts for the next three years. To help us in our efforts we will attend and participate in the Leadership Literacy Network sponsored by ODE and OAESA

### **Reading:**

**Mills Lawn Elementary School will continue to align and bring continuity to the language arts curriculum for grades K-6.**

We will continue to concentrate on the agreed upon vision that by the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade every student will be a confident, competent reader who through careful reading can find out anything he/she wants or needs to know. We will do all that we can to model and instill in every student a joy of reading. To further this vision we will:

- a. Focus our time, energy and resources on providing interventions, modifications and accommodations for all struggling readers.
- b. Teach children how to read both fiction and non-fiction reading in all curriculum areas and at all grade levels.
- c. Assess, teach and re-assess each child's phonological awareness in grades K-3 using the Dynamic Indicator of Basic Early Literacy.
- d. Assess each child's progress on a regular basis in the areas of fluency, comprehension and vocabulary in grades K-3 using the Developmental Reading Assessment.
- e. Assess the progress of those students in grades 4-6 who continue to struggle with reading using the Developmental Reading Assessment
- f. Continue to provide high intensity reading intervention for struggling readers, with daily small group instruction with a highly skilled reading tutor.
- g. Continue to plan and teach lessons that are based on active literacy (include reading, writing, speaking, listening) across all core subject areas.

### **Writing:**

**We will work to align and bring continuity to the K-6 writing program.**

**We will focus on:**

- a. Giving all students low risk writing opportunities, such as free writing or journal writing.
- b. Taking overt steps to create a classroom culture of active literacy.
- c. Providing frequent opportunities for students to write in all content areas.
- d. Involving students in writing projects based on their experiences, reading experiences, or classroom discussion.

- e. Teaching the writing process (pre-writing, drafting and publishing), writing applications (narratives, responses to text, letters, poems, reports, etc.), writing conventions (handwriting, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar and usage).
- f. Providing opportunities for students to write for various purposes and audiences.

### **Mathematics:**

#### **Mills Lawn Elementary School will continue to align and bring continuity to the mathematics curriculum for grades K-6.**

We will continue to concentrate on the agreed upon vision that by the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade every student will be able to add, subtract, multiply and divide whole numbers, fractions, decimals and percents comfortably and without great frustration. To further this vision we will:

- a. Continue in our efforts to develop and/or purchase math achievement assessments that assist us in accurately measuring what each student knows and is able to do in each of the State's Academic Content Standards ( Number, Number Sense, Measurement, Geometry and Spatial Sense, Patterns, Functions and Algebra, and Data Analysis and Probability ).
- b. Focus our time, energy and resources on providing interventions, modifications and accommodations for all students who are struggling in math.
- c. Provide that each teacher receives the necessary professional development in the teaching of mathematics.
- d. Continue to seek and implement best instructional practices in math.
- e. Taking overt steps to create a classroom culture of active numeracy (thinking sequential, logically, solving for the unknown, using previous knowledge)

### **School Climate, Culture and Community:**

#### **Mills Lawn Elementary School will continue to align and bring continuity to the Positive Behavior Program for grades K-6.**

We firmly believe that what happens to the individual student while he/she is at school is paramount to becoming a confident, comfortable life long learner. Specifically, what happens in the classroom has a powerful affect on each student and how each student learns. We believe that the teacher is the most critical variable to each child's learning experience. Collectively and in collaboration with one another we will do all that we can to ensure that each student is seen/recognized by his/her teacher and is accepted regardless of what he/she brings or doesn't bring to school. To further this vision we will:

- a. Continue to use the anti-bully and anti-class disruption rubrics as important tools in establishing and maintaining a school environment that ensures each student's emotional and physical safety.
- b. Keep the rationale and goals for our program at the forefront of conversations.
- c. Continue to collect data that will reflect the programs effectiveness and point to those areas that require change and/or augmentation.
- d. Continue to involve parents and students in the assessment of the program.

**YELLOW SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL AND MCKINNEY  
SCHOOL**  
**AREAS OF CONCENTRATION 2007-2008**

**Action Plan:**

The continuation of the later start time for students has proven to be successful in terms of teacher collaboration, curriculum research, professional development, increased time for tutoring, technology, special education dialogue and level meetings. The overall climate of the entire school community has changed in a positive way because of our later start time.

For the 2007-2008 school year we plan to expand our area of focus from the previous year along with specifically addressing the following: articulation, increasing the effectiveness of communication with parents, implementation of interdisciplinary units, curriculum mapping, and the increase of tutoring time for our students.

**North Central Accreditation (NCA):**

The 2007-2008 school year will mark the start of our 5 year initiative as part of the NCA process. As a staff we have chosen two areas of concentration:

1. Reading Literacy
2. School Climate which will feature a school wide thematic unit on water.

Going through the NCA process has helped us to focus on school improvement plans and strategies related to our Action Plan.

**McKinney Project II and School Transition:**

This will be the third year of McKinney Project II and we feel strongly that it has served as a good transition activity for incoming students of the McKinney School. Our goal for 2007-2008 is to tweak, modify and re-evaluate aspects of the McKinney Project II.

Areas of focus that we will also concentrate on are as follows:

1. Revision of current Harassment Rubric.
2. Continuation of thematic units such as the reading of the book Misfits.
3. Networking with guest speakers that we have used the previous two years: Social Workers, Human Resource personnel, medical professionals, therapists, Village Mediation Personnel, YSHS students, staff and other professionals.

4. We will seek input from Peer Mediation Programs that have been successful in other school settings for possible inclusion among our McKinney students through the use of our Student Review Board.
5. No Name Calling Week activities.
6. Incorporation of information from the High School Student of Engagement survey (HSSE) which will be used in a number of different venues throughout the entire 7-12 school community.
7. Continuation of all transition activities for the McKinney School: Spring visit to McKinney/YSHS by incoming seventh graders from the Antioch School and Mills Lawn, end of the year parent meeting with McKinney administration, current McKinney eighth grade visit to Mills Lawn to meet with incoming seventh graders, Seventh grade Orientation, Open House and other “break the ice” activities will be continued.

## **Technology:**

1. The installation of new Thin Client computers in the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts classroom will be completed for the 2007-2008 school year. This new set of computers will replace computers that were originally installed as part of the Raising the Bar Grant (1998).
2. The purchase and installation of a McKinney server which will expand the capacity of space on computers for our students along with providing for greater efficiency.
3. Professional development in the area of technology will continue to be a major aspect of our instructional strategies. Specific areas will include D3A2 (Data Driven Decisions for Academic Achievement) and DASL (Data Analysis for Student Learning).
4. Increased usage of United Streaming Videos by teachers will be pursued and recommended.
5. Strong emphasis on increasing the effectiveness of Progress Book particularly in terms of communicating with parents in a timely manner will be featured. Combined, nearly two thirds of our school community (parents and students) have access to Progress Book.

## **Curriculum:**

1. Reading Initiative/Literacy: Per the NCA process and as identified by the staff we will address areas of reading comprehension, reading for fun, reading as a lifetime skill, and other important aspects of reading.
2. Math Initiative: Continuation of this project (3<sup>rd</sup> year) will continue as we are now seeing the benefits of this initiative:
  - Improved test scores for the Class of 2010 compared to previous years

- A larger number of students enrolled in Advanced Math, Algebra I, and Geometry for the 2007-2008 school year which increases the “bell curve” for students taking math courses.
  - Greater coordination between staff of all three schools (MLS, YSHS and McKinney) as exemplified by the purchase of math textbooks.
  - Continuation of the math tutoring program which has led to success for individual students on the Ohio Achievement Test and Ohio Graduation Test.
3. Review and possible implementation of some of the recommendations from the two year Science Curriculum study (2005-2007). Part of this study has resulted in the implementation of a General Biology course for the 2007-2008 school year.
  4. Review and possible implementation of some of the recommendations from the two year Music Committee study (2005-2007).
  5. Continued emphasis on differentiated instruction, interdisciplinary units (school wide thematic unit on Water), emphasis on special education specifically in terms of communication and professional development.
  6. Implementation of Value Added analysis of test scores and strategies will be included.

## **Miscellaneous:**

1. Waiver Days being sequenced and returned to Friday's.
2. Increase of before school tutoring time and increased number of students taking advantage of the After School Tutoring program.
3. Exploration of a formalized credit recovery program for at risk students along with reviewing online and off campus courses/programs and establishing guidelines for these courses.
4. Continued revision and tweaking of the Senior Project.
5. Emphasis on being financially frugal: zero based budgeting, turning off lights, turning off computers when not in use, field trips, recycling of paper (using the blank backside).
6. Greater attention on networking with parents regarding substance abuse issues through the Student Assistance Team, Guidance Office and Administration.
7. Adjusting to life without an aide in the Library/Media Center.
8. Continuation of the textbook sequence cycles.
9. Continued emphasis on increasing student involvement in our school community: Student Review Board, School Pulse Meetings, analysis of the High School Survey of Student Engagement and finding other modes of obtaining student input.
10. Emphasis and development of earlier identification of at risk students along with the development of interventions and strategies to insure success for all of our students.
11. Development of a formalized new student (students new to YS) program.
12. Meeting all of the benchmarks as set forth by the Ohio Department of Education.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION AREAS OF CONCENTRATION** **2007-2008**

### **I. Technology and Instruction**

- a. Refine the use of the IEP networked software.
- b. Finalize protocols for Intervention Assistance Team (IAT), Multi-Factored Evaluations (MFE), and Individualized Education Program (IEP) at the elementary level.
- c. Continue dispersion of IAT, MFE, IEP protocols at the middle school and high school level.
- d. Work with IAT teams to continue with further initiation of the Response to Intervention (RTI) district-wide.

### **II. Professional Development and Communication**

- a. Continue workshops on collaboration, transition, accommodations, modifications and postsecondary planning with the High School staff and Parents.
- b. Develop Collaboration and Inclusion dialogs at the team level at Mills Lawn.
- c. Compare Spring 2007 Parent Survey to Fall 2005 Parent Survey to determine and implement strategies for improvement.

## **BUDGET CHANGES: ADDITIONS AND REDUCTIONS**

### **Additions:**

- I.** Literacy Team Leader Stipends = \$1600  
(\$800 for MLS & \$800 for YSHS/McKinney)

**TOTAL ADDITIONS: \$1600**

### **Reductions:**

- I.** One (1) MLS Teaching Position = \$63,400
- II.** Savings from Kindergarten Teacher Retirement = \$17,000
- III.** Elimination of two Instructional Aide Positions = \$63,600
- IV.** Assignment of Transportation Coordination to the Board Office = \$3,000
- V.** Reduction of two MLS Advisory Team Positions = \$2,728
- VI.** Reduction of one Swimming Coach Stipend = \$1,800
- VII.** Building budget reductions = \$13,000

**TOTAL REDUCTIONS: \$164,528**

## **FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND BUDGET**

### **INCOME:**

*Real Estate Tax Revenues* are estimated to only increase by 1% as this is neither a triennial or a reappraisal year and historically there has been very minimal to flat growth on these non-appraisal years.

*Personal Property Tax Revenues* are steadily decreasing due to the phase out of this commercial tax.

*State Foundation* has been estimated at \$1,074,000. This is similar to the past two years as we are a guaranteed district and in the proposed Governor's biannual budget it is stated that no district shall receive less funding than they did the previous year.

Income from *Open Enrollment* is being estimated at \$627,839 a calculation of 105.5 students. This reflects only a 1% increase from last year as we will actually be losing a few open enrollment students due to reducing the number of 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers to two.

The *Investment return* is projected to decrease as we have less additional liquid funds available to invest at the same estimated rate as last year. We are involved in a checking sweep account, a money market mutual fund and a securities fund.

The *Income Tax* collection has been increased by 5%. This is the average rate of increase recommended by the State department of taxation for this part of the state of Ohio.

The *Personal Property Tax* Hold Harmless reimbursement payments are calculated using the State's figures and percentages.

### **EXPENDITURES:**

#### **SALARIES:**

The salary line items in the budget include the following changes:

- YSEA personnel with the negotiated 2.5% salary increase & step increase.
- OAPSE personnel with the negotiated 2.5% salary increase & step increase.
- Step salary increases for all staff and faculty positions average 1.9%.
- Severance for 3 certificated employees.
- Reduction of two Instructional Aide's positions at Mills Lawn

## **FRINGE BENEFITS:**

Cost for health insurance has been increased by 12% and dental by 8% following a recommendation by the EPC for next year. We will not receive their final figures on hospitalization until this fall. The dental rates do not change until the winter of 2007.

Workers Compensation, Retirement, and Medicare benefits increase according to salaries. These have been built into the budget as reflected in our personnel costs.

## **PURCHASED SERVICES:**

The budgeted amount for purchased services is up 2.5%.

We received our new figures from Greene County Educational Service Center and our contract for services has been increased by \$23,000 due to the projected increase of student therapy needs (speech, OT, APE, etc.)

Utility costs for next year are projected to increase minimally not due to a projection of a cost of fuel decrease but due to the districts ongoing efforts to lower our heating costs. This will be achieved mainly by contracting with Mechanical Systems of Dayton to perform regularly scheduled maintenance on our heating/ac systems and also enlisting their help to achieve the most efficient use of our systems.

## **TEXTBOOKS/SUPPLIES/TEACHING AIDS:**

The aggregate amount of \$129,129 budgeted for textbooks, supplies, and teaching aids is well within the state-mandated formula of 3% of last Octobers' ADM multiplied by the base cost per pupil amount.

Bus and custodial supplies are also accounted for under this category at \$67,100.

## **ADVANCES/TRANSFERS OUT:**

Again, we have included \$12,000 in the budget in support of the athletic fund. This assistance from the General Fund is necessary since the income from athletics cannot support the sports programs we provide for our students.

There is a \$20,000 transfer into the Boards contingency account.

EMIS will be receiving a transfer this year of \$13,000 to fund its budget in addition to the \$4,000 we receive from the state.

## **DEBT/INTEREST:**

We now have one outstanding debt out of the general fund, the lease purchase for the gymnasium/football bleachers and musical instruments. This debt will be paid off in 2010.

<b>YELLOW SPRINGS SCHOOLS</b>	<b>fy2008</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008</b>	
<b>BEGINNING CASH BALANCE JULY 1</b>	3,069,025
<b>REVENUE</b>	
Local Property Taxes	2,317,671
Personal Property Taxes	279,005
Rollback/Homestead Taxes	307,453
Income Tax	1,197,000
Public Utility Dereg & TPP loss reimb	267,435
Tuition	5,000
Investments	124,618
Other Local Revenue	49,733
State Foundation	1,074,000
Open Enrollment	627,839
Other State Revenue	10,900
Non-operating (transfers-in)	20,000
<b>Total Operating Receipts</b>	6,280,654
Emergency Levy Renewal	569,380
<b>Total Receipts plus Balance</b>	<b>9,919,059</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	
Salaries	4,358,616
Fringe Benefits	1,587,459
Purchased Services	1,174,270
Supplies/Textbooks/Teaching Aids	196,333
Capital Equipment	18,150
Advances/Transfers Out	51,000
Debt/Interest	34,866
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>7,420,694</b>
<b>ENDING CASH BALANCE JUNE 30</b>	<b>2,498,365</b>
Carryover Encumbrances	
Bus Purchase Balance	5,000
Contingency Balance	479,465
<b>ENDING UNRESERVED BALANCE</b>	<b>2,013,900</b>

