

STUDENT SUCCESS TEAM

A Handout for Parents of Pleasant Ridge Union School District

To Parents:

Students are most successful when there is a cooperative effort between their parents and school personnel. In a spirit of shared responsibility, the Alta Sierra Student Success Team meets to collaborate in order to help students. You are a vital part of the team.

This handout is intended to help you better understand the way the Student Success Team works so that you can become more actively involved in your child's education. Your questions, comments and suggestions are very valuable. Feel free to share them at the meeting of the Student Success Team.

What Is The Student Success Team?

The Student Success Team (SST) is a school site team, which reviews individual student strengths and problematical areas. The SST plans strategies and organizes resources for addressing problems and concerns. This process is a function of regular education.

How Is A Student Selected To Be Discussed At The SST?

Usually a parent or the classroom teacher indicates that the student's learning, behavioral and/or emotional needs are not being adequately met under existing circumstances.

Will Anything Have Been Done To Help My Child Before The SST?

Yes, the teacher will have already made some accommodations in the classroom. Then the principal and teacher meet to review the student's progress. Evaluation of classroom skills (math, reading comprehension and fluency) by your child's teachers will be analyzed. Your child may also have a vision and/or hearing screening.

What Does "Accommodations" Mean?

Measures taken to accommodate a student's needs. Some examples of accommodations are:

- Change of seating
- Use of diagnostic materials
- Individual contracts
- Change of group
- Notebooks/planner for assignments
- Behavior modification
- Visual aids in giving instructions
- Copies of teachers notes or overhead transparencies
- Extra time on tests or assignments
- Extended due dates

How Many People Will Be At The SST?

The team will always include parents, the student, and the teacher referring the student to the SST, and sufficient staff to review the student's needs. The SST Coordinator (Mr. Motarjeme) facilitates the meeting.

Are There Any Other Staff Who Might Be Present?

Other staff which might be present includes: resource teacher, school nurse, speech and language pathologist, and/or counselor.

All of Those People?

No, but usually four or five people. Only those who are necessary to adequately review the student will be there.

What Is The "SST Summary"?

This is a chart divided into columns on which a recorder captures the key information discussed during the Student Success Team Meeting. Some of the headings are:

- Strengths
- Information
- Accommodations
- Areas of Concern
- Questions
- Strategies (Brainstorm)
- Action
- Person(s) Responsible

This helps the team to organize its ideas. As the different areas are discussed, the information is transcribed on the paper in the appropriate column. This sheet serves as a record of the minutes of the SST meeting, frees participants from taking notes, and provides a "picture" of the student that includes strengths as well as concerns.

Will I Be Asked A Lot Of Questions?

No. The SST is an informal meeting where everyone is concerned about your child's progress. As the different areas are discussed, you might be asked a few questions, but how much you say is up to you. Your participation during this meeting is encouraged.

What Do I Need To Do Before Or During The Meeting?

Try to think of any information that would be helpful to the school. To assist you in preparing for the meeting we will ask you to complete the enclosed questionnaire and bring it with you to the meeting. You will notice that we are interested in your perception of your child's strengths as well as concerns.

What Do You Mean By "Strengths"?

"Strengths" are the positive areas that your child demonstrates. For example:

- is a leader
- likes school
- belongs to a team, group, club
- is creative
- has a hobby
- cares for a pet
- plays a musical instrument

How Will I Remember Everything That Is Recorded On The “SST Summary”?

The information is written down and you will receive your own copy.

Will I Be Given Ideas To Help My Child At Home?

Some suggestions might be made at the SST about ways you can help your child at home.

Does This Meeting Mean My Child Will Receive Special Education Help?

No. The primary purpose of the Student Success Team is to come up with strategies and/or suggestions for modifications in the regular classroom or suggestions of other kinds of help for the student.

Will My Child Be A Part Of The Meeting?

Elementary students are not usually expected to participate in the SST meeting.

Will There Be Only One Meeting?

At the end of the meeting, the team will schedule a follow-up date, if necessary, to evaluate and discuss the results of the actions taken.

Who Will Be Involved In The Follow-Up Meeting?

The follow-up meeting may involve the parent(s), one or two members of the team, or the entire team, whichever is more appropriate.

Whom Do I Contact If I Have Questions Before Coming To The Meeting?

Alta Sierra - Contact your child’s teacher or Mr. Motarjeme at (530) 272-2319
 Cottage Hill – Contact your child’s teacher or Mrs. Montero at (530) 268-2808
 Magnolia – Contact Mr. Morgan at (530) 268-2815