WASC/CDE Visiting Committee
Final Presentation

Birmingham Community Charter High School
March 18-21, 2012
Focus on Learning asks...

✓ How do you know that all students are achieving based on our schoolwide student goals and academic standards?

✓ Is the school doing everything possible to support high achievement for all its students?
Organization: Vision and Purpose, Governance, Leadership and Staff, and Resources

Areas to Celebrate

✓ Fiscal procedures are in place to closely monitor BCCHS's finances.

✓ Schoolwide development of ESLRs that are consistent with the Charter petition, graduation goals, and school vision and resources are assigned appropriately. ESLRs are designed clearly for the needs of BCCHS.

✓ Professional development opportunities through the Patriot time and the availability of resources to support other outside professional development.
Organization: Vision and Purpose, Governance, Leadership and Staff, and Resources

Areas to Celebrate

✓ Hiring process which involves members of the SLC, Departments and Admin team.

✓ Staff involvement through governing board representation, SLCs, Department heads, Advisory Council and Leadership team
Organization: Vision and Purpose, Governance, Leadership and Staff, and Resources

Areas for Focus

☑ Continue to develop a schoolwide Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) that aligns and integrates our critical learning needs, ESLRs, and academic standards.

☑ Maintain policy handbook of approved governing board policies that have been adopted. Comprehensive staff handbook and web access of up to date policies, procedures, meeting and agenda notes.
Organization: Vision and Purpose, Governance, Leadership and Staff, and Resources

Areas for Focus

✓ Continue to develop policies and programs that are targeted proactively at under-achieving or at-risk students.

✓ Organizational charts of responsibilities and processes to improve communication between all stakeholders – specifically with the roles of the SLC leads, Department heads, Leadership Leads and Admin team with regards to communicating to the rest of the staff and governing road.

✓ Increased participation by additional staff in decision making processes.
Curriculum

Areas to Celebrate

✓ Parents and students are receiving important information about college track, graduation track, and credit recovery.
✓ The number of course offerings in terms of advanced placement, honor courses, and concurrent enrollment.

Areas for Focus

✓ Collaboration and open communication between departments and grade levels.
✓ There are inconsistencies in academic schedules among high achieving and mid level achieving students.
✓ Intervention programs for low and mid level achieving students.
Instruction

Areas to Celebrate

✓ Standards are posted in classrooms, some in “student friendly terminology”.

✓ Students are given a student planner at beginning of year to help them organize and remember when assignments are due.

✓ School has implemented “late start days” (Patriot Time) which has been working better for students and teachers combined. Teachers now have a much more structured time for teacher training, collaboration, and discussion.

✓ School utilizes a pyramid to make sure students are all meeting the standards.
Instruction

Areas to Celebrate

✓ Beginning the implementation of a teacher to teacher observation process. Teachers are encouraged to visit each other’s classrooms to learn different teaching strategies and techniques.

✓ Special education students go into community to volunteer at Fresh and Easy and the Armory.

✓ A variety of guest speakers are brought into the different departments and SLC’s. Math teachers are having an event where students will listen to people in the real world who regularly use high school math in their workplace.
Instruction

Areas to Celebrate

✓ The child care course brings in a professor from Peirce college discuss the industry.

✓ The biology classes have a heavy ecological component.

✓ Teachers are all following the same pacing schedule in regards to the curriculum.

✓ Each course gets together to pick 30 words that they will focus on throughout the year.

✓ The implementation of the CFA
Instruction

Areas for Focus

✓ School would benefit from a formalized community service graduation requirement. Although certain departments require certain “community service” like assignments, there is not a formal requirement in place as an official graduation requirement at this time.

✓ Teacher to teacher observations need to be formalized so it happens on a more regular and comfortable basis.

✓ Continue to increase the number of college classes offered.

✓ Attempt to bring more students to school to take advantage of patriot time in the morning.
Assessment and Accountability

Areas to Celebrate

✓ BCCHS has created a culture of school improvement. In response to focusing on school improvement, a test-taking culture has also developed.

✓ Patriot Time provides students a good opportunity to improve

Areas for Focus

✓ Develop and implement a uniform grading policy.

✓ Adopt/implement a formal policy alerting district and board about assessment results.
School Culture and Support for Student
Personal and Academic Growth

Areas to Celebrate

- BCCHS students, staff and parents are committed to making the school a success.
- The school has an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect. The Academies help to shrink a large school into smaller supportive learning environments.
- The work with Common Formative Assessments (CFA's) has made an impact on teaching and learning. The teachers, students and parents have a common way to view achievement in each discipline. It provides a way to focus intervention and use of Patriot time.
School Culture and Support for Student Personal and Academic Growth

Areas for Focus

✓ It is important for the school to find ways to connect the Academies to the community and the world of work.

✓ The Patriot time needs to be better utilized by students. It is important for them to target those students most in need and get them there. They have begun to deal with this through the learning communities and phone calls home.
Celebrate Schoolwide Strengths

- Students and staff all express a great sense of safety while on campus
- Campus well cared for and staff and students take pride in the school’s appearance
- BCCHS emphasizes a culture of high expectations for all students
- There is a systemic move towards increased academic rigor for all students
Critical Areas for Focus

Areas for Focus

☑ Implement a formalized, Board approved, certificated staff evaluation process

☑ Maintain a written and electronic board policy manual and a process for approving administrative regulations and board policies. Maintain accurate board agendas and minutes as required by law.

☑ Develop a comprehensive organizational chart for all staff, clearly detailing the decision making process, roles and responsibilities.
Critical Areas for Focus

Areas for Focus

✓ Greater articulation between BCCHS and local community colleges and trade schools to increase student post secondary opportunities

✓ Increase community involvement by exploring local perceptions in order to develop a comprehensive plan to strengthen BCCHS's student opportunities for mentoring, internships and possible employment

✓ Continue to explore and implement methods to effectively communicate to all stakeholders
Making it happen: Ongoing Work

✓ Continue to research “best practices” (bell schedules, calendars, drop out prevention, etc.) that will address needs of a greater number of BCCHS students - intervention students, credit recovery students, high achieving students - and provide opportunities for "real world" career and technical experiences

✓ Increase number of students completing A-G requirements in order to: maximize post-secondary opportunities for all students, increase the number of students who apply for and attend 2- and 4-year institutions, trade schools, military and career technical programs after graduation

✓ Regularly use data on a consistent basis and in an uniform manner to guide instructional plans of individual teachers, determine pacing of individual courses, identify school wide instructional needs
Making it happen: Ongoing Work

✓ Continue to cultivate knowledge and awareness of the staff regarding the vision and innovative practices of schools within the charter movement as well as exploring best practices of other conversion charter high schools

✓ Develop a comprehensive system to build the capacity of teacher leaders

✓ Continue to expand training and capacity of staff in utilization of the ZOOM data system
Schoolwide Action Plan

Visualize what will be different for students....

✓ One year from now?
✓ Two years from now?
✓ Three years from now?