

**Component: Barriers to Learning West Union Elementary School Coordinator: Mike Roades**

**Priority Needs:** According to the State of Ohio District Report Card Indicators for Student Attendance Rate and a review of school records, students at West Union Elementary experience barriers, which influence their levels of school achievement. Two basic barriers of attendance and behavior have been identified. Students must be in attendance to learn. Although West Union Elementary School met the state indicator for attendance with 93.9%, attendance rates for neighboring districts whose elementary schools were rated effective or excellent reported attendance rates of 94 to 95%.

The second barrier is student behavior. Research has identified a strong link between behavior and student progress. Students who feel threatened academically often misbehave to avoid various learning tasks and situations. Research indicates that student behavior should be 80-90% maintained by the building-wide school behavior plan. Data indicates that West Union Elementary School consistently falls in the 70-80% range. 484 office referrals were made in the 2006-2007 school year, resulting in 45 out-of-school suspensions.

**Improvement Goal (Performance Indicator):** By the end of the 2007-08 school year, West Union Elementary will continue to meet or exceed the minimum performance standards of student attendance (93%) and demonstrate school stakeholder satisfaction/confidence that a safe, friendly educational environment is maintained. The school will experience a reduction in out-of-school suspensions and an increase in acceptable behavior to above 80%.

**Causes/Contributing Factors ( school needs assessment):**

- The Effective Schools Survey will be employed to increase the level of positive communication between home and school in order to continue to remove barriers to learning.
- Analysis of attendance data will be conducted to develop a plan to increase student attendance.
- Analysis of behavior data will be conducted to determine antecedents of inappropriate behavior and develop strategies to reduce inappropriate behavior.

**Strategies:**

1. During the 2007-08 school year, all students at West Union Elementary School will participate in programs and various activities to continue to improve student attendance. Successful achievement of this strategy will be measured by increased percentage of attendance and student responses to surveys/interviews.
2. During the 2007-08 school year, all students at West Union Elementary School will participate in programs and various activities to improve student behavior. Successful achievement of this strategy will be measured by a significant reduction in discipline referrals and student/teacher responses to surveys/interviews.

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<b>Strategy #:</b> 1. During the 2007-08 school year, all students at West Union Elementary School will participate in programs and various activities to improve student attendance. Successful achievement of this strategy will be measured by increased percentage of attendance.							
<b><u>Attendance Activities/Tasks:</u></b> <b>(Process Indicators)</b>	<b><u>Person Responsible</u></b>	<b><u>Timeline From/To</u></b>	<b><u>Evidence, Examples, Products, Deliverables</u></b>	<b><u>Resources Have</u></b>	<b><u>Resources Needed</u></b>	<b><u>Funding Source</u></b>	<b><u>Funding Needed</u></b>
1a. 100% of students will receive personal instruction and parents/guardians will receive information regarding attendance procedures and policies at the beginning of the school year.	All Teachers Principal Asst. Principals	To be checked at the beginning of each new school year and with the registration of new students	Handbook receipt signed by student and parent/guardian Home visit log	Student Handbook	Time Postage Printing	General Fund	Provided by district
1b. Attendance will be assessed daily and personal contact with the parent/guardian will be made after every unexcused student absence. The parents/ guardians of students who accumulate more than 10 absences in a semester for any reason will also be contacted.	Asst. Principal Family Int. Specialist	Daily	Contact with parents via phone Written correspondence Home visit Phone log	Phone envelopes postage	Time	General Fund	
1c. 100% of students with perfect attendance each nine weeks will be given 3 rewards. All students with excellent attendance (1 day) will be given 2 rewards. Those who have perfect attendance will receive a reward at the end of the year.	All Teachers Principal Asst. Principals Family Int. Specialist	Weekly Monthly At the end of each quarter  At the end of the year	Assembly programs Copies of requisitions for rewards purchased Collection of Dragon Spirit Beads	Attendance records	Gift certificates Prizes Awards	General Fund	\$1200 estimated

Budget estimates are on a year-by-year basis.

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<b>Strategy #:</b> 2. During the 2007-08 school year, all students at West Union Elementary School will participate in programs and various activities to improve student behavior. Successful achievement of this strategy will be measured by a significant reduction in discipline referrals.							
<b>Activities/Tasks: (Process Indicators)</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Timeline From/To</b>	<b>Evidence, Examples, Products, Deliverables</b>	<b>Resources Have</b>	<b>Resources Needed</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Funding Needed</b>
2a. Classrooms who meet the school of 80% GREEN behavior will be announced on morning announcements. These classrooms will also receive a Kermit Award Certificate.	All Teachers Asst. Principal Principal	Throughout the year	Weekly school announcements Certificates	Computer	Certificate Paper	Principals' Fund	\$250
2b. Students who maintain GREEN behavior and have perfect attendance during a calendar week will receive a SPIRIT bead.	All Teachers Asst. Principal Principal	Throughout the year	Beads		Beads Baggies Bead cords Paper	Principals' Fund	\$1000
2c. The school will utilize SWIS to collect data and inform management of student behavior in conjunction with the OISM project.	Principal Asst. Principals	Throughout the year	SWIS	Initial database of student behavior	Time to enter data	General Fund	\$250 annual subscription fee
2d. The school will explore FBAs and the Ziggurat Model as a tool to improve student behavior and teacher management of misbehavior.	Principal Asst. Principals All Teachers	Throughout the year	Agendas and case studies	In-district Trainer	Training time	General Fund	
2e. The school will utilize a social skills program to improve student behavior.	Principal Asst. Principal Guidance Counselor	Throughout the year	List of Social Skills to focus on; morning announcements, classroom signs	Social Skills programs in Special Ed. Office			