

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLAN CHANGES TO CURRENT PRACTICE

District Name: Mountain Side School District

GOAL # 1 : (Performance Standard and GLEs to be addressed)

To improve writing and editing using conventions of standard English, and therefore improve the overall writing performance of students in grade 7 and 8. The specific GLEs to be addressed are 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.3.3, 3.3.4, and 3.3.5.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR 1.1 (Baseline)

When the students in the 7th and 8th grade are combined there are 172, or 21% not proficient in writing. Analysis of the overall results in the reporting strands of Write Using a Variety of Forms, Structures and Conventions and Revise demonstrated the area of Structures and Conventions is the lowest based on scale score performance.

PERFORMANCE TARGET 1.1 (Measurable Change)

Decrease the 7th and 8th grade not proficient population by 15%, or reduce the number not proficient from 172 to 146.

CHANGES WE WILL MAKE TO CURRENT PRACTICE

Scientifically Based support for this strategy/material (reference, or brief description):

All teachers will be trained by district staff who have training in the “writing project” on teaching and assessing writing. The training will be on-going, and include a kick off full day training before school begins, and trainers will be released from teaching duties weekly to observe and coach trainees. The trainers will lead two release days for all 7th and all 8th grade teachers to score writing prompts from their students. The training will address all areas of writing, but focus will be given to the area of conventions.

All students will be instructed, using district-adopted curriculum, to apply rules of spelling to identify, edit and correct writing. All students will be taught to use edit procedures incorporating the rules of capitalization and punctuation, including commas, quotation marks, apostrophes, parentheses, and colons. Specific direct instruction will be provided to students in the area of rules of usage including verb tense, subject/verb agreement, possessives, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, and sentence structure.

Using the scoring rubric for the writing subtest (6 point and 4 point) students will be trained to write with varying beginnings and lengths as well as patterns of sentences to improve flow and enhance meaning and style. Additionally, the district will assess the students twice before the April test window using the Six point instructional rubric for writing, with specific analysis for feedback to students on those items being addressed in the improvement plan. The conventions aspect of the writing will be scored by teams of 7th and 8th grade teachers, following scoring training and checking for inter-rater reliability.