

Lowndes County Schools

Business/Education Support Team (B.E.S.T.)

- Make Education Work
- Communities in Schools
- Game of Real Life
- Regional Certified Literate Community Program
- Helping Your Child Succeed
- Emphasis on Science & Math

Lowndes County System Needs

■ Time

- Teachers have class loads that afford them more time to meet their student's educational needs
- Teachers have time during the school day for collaboration
- A new transportation schedule requires teachers to spend less time supervising students



Lowndes High School

Georgia BellSouth Quality
Learning and Teaching
Environments Initiative

Who Spoke Up?

- May 2005— 49 of 165 faculty members responded
- Survey overload
- For future surveys departments will participate at a designated time

The Survey Says...

- As result of the BellSouth QLTE Survey, LHS identified our areas of greatest need to be:
 - Time
 - Empowerment
 - Leadership

Time

- Student learning time is rarely interrupted and is protected by school leaders.
 - Interruptions have been significantly reduced as a result of announcements being made at the beginning of the day and during TAG (Teacher Advisory Group)

Time

- Teachers have time during the school day to work collaboratively with their colleagues.
 - Ninth grade academy teachers currently have common planning time (4th block)
 - Early-release days are incorporated into the school calendar for teachers to work
 - Professional release time is given to English and science faculty for implementing GPS

Empowerment

- Teachers are recognized as educational experts and trusted to make decisions.
 - The administration is relying more heavily on the expertise of the faculty in professional learning
 - Teachers are an integral part of the AYP improvement committee

Empowerment

- Teachers and staff work together to improve teaching and learning.
 - Teachers created an incentive program, “Where There’s A Wheel There’s A Way,” to address student tardies, discipline, and overall performance in a non-punitive manner.
 - A mentor/mentee program was developed to provide feedback and guidance to new teachers.

Empowerment

- I feel comfortable raising concerns which are important to me.
 - Faculty Advisory Councils have been established at the school and system level to address teacher concerns in a non-threatening environment.

Leadership

- School improvement plans are effectively developed and implemented.
 - A committee was formed to address student achievement and to devise a plan to improve overall student performance.

Leadership

- Student learning considerations are the most important criteria used to make decisions.
 - Administrators and teachers are working collaboratively to implement modifications to the schedule.
 - An alternative bell schedule is used for testing days to increase test participation.

Why Not?

- Scores for the questions on Facilities and Professional Learning indicated that these areas were being addressed adequately.

Facilities

- After 3 years of construction, the campus has improved tremendously.
 - Aesthetic appeal
 - Classroom additions

Professional Learning

- The expertise of the LHS faculty has been utilized.
 - Georgia Performance Standard
 - Learning Focused School Philosophy

Other Initiatives

- LHS has taken a proactive approach to move our school *from good to great*.
 - ParentConnect
 - Vertical Teaming
 - Faculty Social
 - Opportunities for Leadership