**Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School**

**65 Pleasant Street, Upton, MA 01568**

**School Counseling Program**

Massachusetts Accountability Report Card - 2005-2006

*A Continuous Improvement Document for School Counseling Program Outcomes sponsored by MASCA*

**PRINCIPAL’S COMMENTS**

The paradigm shift from a crisis response model to a standards based school counseling program at BVT has been one of the most exciting innovations I’ve been part of in 30+ years in education. As counselors continue to work with ALL their students in our Employability classes and in follow up counseling sessions, I look forward to seeing data which reveals outcomes related to increased academic achievement, an improved school climate and improved post secondary placement rates.

**Richard P. Brennan, Principal**

**STUDENT RESULTS**

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The class of 2009 completed a 14 week exploratory program with great results. The counselor taught Employability curriculum focused on teaching students the Harrington O’Shea Career Decision Making System. 98% of the students got one of their top 3 choices. Valley Tech seniors once again had a great post graduation placement rate. 45% of our seniors went on to a 2 or 4 year college or technical training program, 49% entered the work force and 3% joined the armed forces.

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|  | **$38,500 was awarded to members of the Class of 2005**  **to fund their futures**  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  The Depression Screening program has been a major focus over the last five years. It is encouraging to see positive results thanks to the integrated efforts of the nurses, health teachers, school based health professionals, school psychologist, adjustment counselors, and school counselors**. Approximately 1 in 3 of our students report feeling depressed**. Thankfully, the most recent student surveys show a significant decrease in seriously depressed thinking. Student Services will continue to focus on this critical issue by teaching all grade 9 students about the symptoms of depression and warning signs of suicide. |

**SCHOOL CLIMATE AND SAFETY**

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For the last 5 years the Valley Tech Counseling Department has led school wide initiatives as part of a *Respect Across the Curriculum* initiative. This year the School Adjustment Counselor spearheaded a committee comprised of staff and students, which focused on creating and maintaining a positive school climate. The committee began their endeavors with a **Safety Summit Day**, on which the focus was “A Safe and Drug Free School”. The day was built around lesson plans [which all teachers used to reach all students!], hands-on activities and a play seen at a school-wide assembly. 81% of the student body felt the play was informative and helpful, and 79% of the students chose to participate in the ‘Kick Drug out of our School” campaign

**MEASUREMENTS**

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| **CDE Domain** | **Measurements** | **Management/Responsive Services** |
| Academic/Technical Skill Development | * Stanford Diagnostic, MCAS, PSAT’s, SAT’s, NEAP | * Placement in appropriate courses, tutoring, MCAS “camps” * Academic advising and individual planning |
| Workplace Readiness | * Harrington-O’Shea Interest Inventory * Career Portfolio | * Results used to inform shop placements * 2 portfolio entries per year assigned by counselors via Employability classes |
| Personal Social Development | * SOS/ Depression Screening * Youth Risk Behavior Survey | * At risk students screened and referred for follow-up evaluations * Data informs Respect Across the Curriculum initiatives [counselor led school wide activities] |

**FOCUS FOR IMPROVEMENT**

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|  | |  | | --- | | 1 - School safety issues | | 2 - School wide communication issues | | 3 - Reducing harassment/bullying | | 4 - Raising the bar regarding grades/graduation requirements | | 5 - Raising the bar regarding attendance | | 6 - Developing and implementing an electronic communication system for at risk students/SRT meetings | | 7 - Developing a faculty handbook | | 8 - Increasing grading consistency amongst staff | | 9 - Raising the bar for discipline | |

The Director of the School Counseling Program initiated a *Study Group* approach to staff professional development during the 2005-2006 school year. The entire faculty was divided into 8 study groups which met monthly throughout the year. Each group focused on making recommendations on how to serve at-risk students as we transition from a school with 800 students to 1200 students over the next few years. The issues identified by the faculty were then prioritized through a survey completed by all staff members. The school counseling program will be involved in helping to generate systemic solutions to these identified priorities.