



Massachusetts Accountability Report Card

A continuous improvement document for school counseling outcomes

M.A.R.C. Jr.

2014-2015 School Year



PEMBROKE COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL
Excellence in Education

Pembroke Community Middle School

559 School Street Pembroke, MA 02359

<http://pcms.pembrokek12.org/pages/PembrokeCommunityMS>

DISTRICT: Pembroke Public Schools

GRADE LEVELS: 7-8 **ENROLLMENT:** 524 Students

SCHOOL YEAR: traditional, multi-track, year-round

PRINCIPAL: Donna McGarrigle, M.Ed., C.A.G.S.

Principal's Comments

The middle school years can be incredibly challenging ones for young adolescents. At Pembroke Community Middle School, our school counseling program is an integral part of how we support our students during this critical developmental period.

The counselors begin their work with students in the spring before they enter our building with a comprehensive and student-centered transition program. In the fall, each student has an identified school counselor who is a consistent presence in their lives for the two years they are in our building. School counselors teach a 60-day curriculum that supports students in the development of their social, emotional and academic health. The teaching caseload encompasses approximately fifty percent of the school counselor's workweek. In addition to the teaching caseload, counselors meet once per 6-day cycle with the general education teachers to monitor student functioning and develop and plan student interventions. The counselors' personal experiences with classroom teaching increases their credibility in running these pre-referral meetings. Counselors are also the 504 coordinators for their students and conduct small-group and individual skill-based therapy sessions for any student who may need these more intensive supports.

I can confidently say that no child is "invisible" in our school due to a counseling program that allows our mental health professionals the opportunity to know their students so well.

At the end of the school year, many of our students purchase a "memory book," our middle school version of a yearbook. We build in an hour to allow staff and students time to sign these books. The longest lines to be found, by far, are in front of our school counselors. It visually represents to me the power of our program. Last year, one of my experienced school counselors was touched by the number of students seeking her out, and she said she felt "like a rock star." In reality, the counseling program allows our students to know how valuable they are as individuals as we support them in building competency skills to facilitate their developmental journey. Unequivocally, I believe this counseling program is good for students, good for counselors, and in my estimation, a powerful model of student support during the middle school years.

Donna McGarrigle, Principal



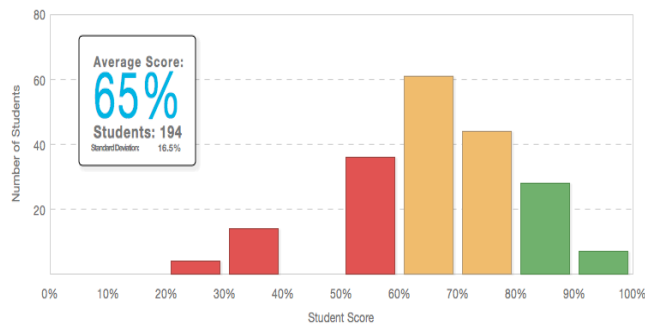
Student Results

During the 2012-2013 school year Pembroke Community Middle School piloted a 36 lesson 21st Century Skills class taught by a school counselor. The piloted initiative was such a success that it was expanded during the 2013-2014 school year to include 60 lessons taught by each school counselor to their assigned caseload. Classroom lessons address personal/social skills, academic skills as well as college and career exploration. The scope and sequence of the school counseling curriculum can be found at <http://bit.ly/1xpHgZn>.

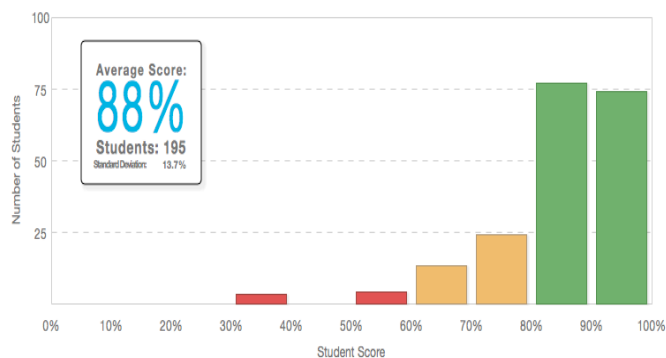
Since bullying is a common concern for early adolescents, a bully prevention unit (part of the 21st century curriculum, the classroom component of our school counseling program) helped students identify bullying behaviors, learn intervention skills, proactively encouraged students to safely become “up standers” rather than “by-standers.” Students embraced the unit by engaging in the school wide activities and decorating all of the available bulletin boards around the school to promote positive social behaviors.

Data were collected through pre and posttests. Results revealed a significant improvement in identifying and responding to bullying behaviors.

Bullying Pretest



Bullying Posttest



■	# Students scoring 80-100%
■	# Students scoring 60-79%
■	# Students scoring 0-59%

The bullying unit addressed the following ASCA Mindsets and Behaviors for Student Success:

Mindset: Sense of belonging in the school environment

Behavior Standard: Social Skills

- Create positive and supportive relationships with other students.
- Demonstrate empathy.

Focus for Improvement

Now that a solid foundation has been built for the 21st Century Skills classes, it is time to measure the effectiveness of the program. The School Counseling Team at Pembroke Community Middle School will focus on the following goals for the 2015-2016 school year:

- Develop pre and post tests for all of major units in the 21st Century Skills classes.
- Administer a needs assessment to staff and students.

Student Support Personnel Team

MISSION STATEMENT

The Pembroke Community Middle School Counseling Department is committed to advocating for all PCMS students and to being an integral part of the PCMS community. Counselors assist, guide, and direct students and families with their academic planning and/or concerns, with social/emotional issues, and with all students' college and career planning. Counselors help students develop a strong sense of self, respect others, make good decisions, reach their goals, and achieve their aspirations.

SCHOOL COUNSELING STAFF

Maggie Cate Cunha, M.Ed.
Licensed School Counselor

Joanne McClune, M.S.
Licensed School Counselor

Kate Salas, Ed.D.
Licensed School Counselor

Nicole Tilton, M.Ed.
Licensed School Counselor