

# Washington County School Improvement Audit Report of Findings

**School:** Abingdon High School

**Date:** 11-10-2010

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Curriculum Alignment: Written			
Indicators	Significant Findings	AOS	AI
<b>CA 1.1</b> Making curriculum resources and supplementary materials available for use by teachers			
<b>CA 1.2</b> Establishing specific learning objectives that align with state learning standards and address essential understandings, knowledge, and skills	Learning objectives and state standards need to be clearly written and visible within all classrooms.		✓
<b>CA 1.3</b> Listing instructional strategies and designing learning activities that align with state learning standards and address essential understandings, knowledge, and skills			
<b>CA 1.4</b> Developing daily lesson plans that fit logically within the unit and within the context of the overall curriculum			
<b>CA 1.5</b> Using student performance data to develop daily lesson plans that reflect consideration of the learning strengths and needs of students			
<b>CA 1.6</b> Evaluating the appropriateness of pacing and mapping regularly, and making appropriate adjustments	Collaboration among all teachers and instruction staff occurs during pre-school in-service days.	✓	
<b>CA 1.7</b> Analyzing the curriculum components across grade levels in like content areas to identify areas of strength and areas of weakness	Data is used to identify areas of curriculum needs.	✓	

Curriculum Alignment: Taught			
Indicators	Significant Findings	AOS	AI
<b>CA 2.1</b> Focusing instruction on specific learning objectives that promote the attainment of state learning standards and address essential understandings, knowledge, and skills			
<b>CA 2.2</b> Using available curriculum resources and supplementary materials appropriately to promote attainment of state learning standards	Evidence was visible that the faculty is using appropriate supplemental materials to meet essential knowledge of standards.	✓	
<b>CA 2.3</b> Presenting accurate knowledge through meaningful contexts and connected disciplines			
<b>CA 2.4</b> Employing instructional strategies that are research-based and proven effective			
<b>CA 2.5</b> Assigning projects and tasks that require students to integrate and apply their learning in meaningful contexts and to reflect on what they have learned			
<b>CA 2.6</b> Providing students with learning experiences that engage them in active learning			
<b>CA 2.7</b> Differentiating instruction to meet the identified strengths and needs of individual students and groups of students			
<b>CA 2.8</b> Providing all students access to available materials, resources, and services to support learning			
<b>CA 2.9</b> Providing teachers with feedback on the alignment of instruction to state learning standards and essential understandings, knowledge, and skills			
<b>CA 2.10</b> Monitoring teacher implementation of the curriculum throughout the year			

Curriculum Alignment: Assessed			
Indicators	Significant Findings	AOS	AI
<b>CA 3.1</b> Assessing student progress on a regular basis			
<b>CA 3.2</b> Ensuring that assessments are aligned with state learning standards and essential understandings, knowledge, and skills			
<b>CA 3.3</b> Providing opportunities for students to take tests that are similar in content and format to state assessments			
<b>CA 3.4</b> Using a variety of classroom-based assessment methods and tools (student self-evaluation, performance checklists, rubrics, scales, projects, products, tests, quizzes) before, during, and after units of study to monitor student progress			
<b>CA 3.5</b> Providing assessments that require students to use knowledge, comprehension, application and reasoning skills			
<b>CA 3.6</b> Periodically reporting student progress toward mastery of learning objectives to students and parents in a way that is clear and understandable	There was strong evidence that the administration provides information regarding student academic progress.	✓	
<b>CA 3.7</b> Monitoring the results of classroom-based assessments to ensure attainment of the knowledge and skills required for success on state assessments			

Professional Development: Organizational Development			
Indicators	Significant Findings	AOS	AI
<b>PD 1.1</b> Designing an ongoing, school-based program of professional development that is based on the analyses of data and is aligned with the school's goals for improving student achievement			
<b>PD 1.2</b> Basing professional development programs and activities on research-based principles and practices			
<b>PD 1.3</b> Allocating resources to support the professional development program and ensure implementation of improvement initiatives	The administration uses professional development funds to support all curriculum areas with emphasis on electives.	✓	
<b>PD 1.4</b> Focusing the core of staff learning on research-based content and instructional practices that have been proven effective in improving student achievement			
<b>PD 1.5</b> Identifying essential learning outcomes from professional development activities that will be used to change practice			
<b>PD 1.6</b> Including theory, demonstration, practice with feedback, and coaching in the school's professional development programs and activities			
<b>PD 1.7</b> Monitoring the degree to which new practices are implemented as prescribed			
<b>PD 1.8</b> Determining the effect of changes in practice on student learning			

<b>Professional Development: Personal Professional Growth &amp; Evaluation</b>			
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Significant Findings</b>	<b>AOS</b>	<b>AI</b>
<b>PD 2.1</b> Embedding professional growth and development into job performance expectations and the performance evaluation process			
<b>PD 2.2</b> Analyzing data/evidence from a variety of relevant sources to identify goals for individual growth and development			
<b>PD 2.3</b> Aligning plans for individual professional development with local improvement initiatives and with areas identified for individual growth			
<b>PD 2.4</b> Connecting teachers' learning outcomes from professional development activities directly to their work in classrooms			
<b>PD 2.5</b> Connecting teachers to external resources such as conferences, workshops, and support networks that align with the needs of individual teachers, departments/grade levels, or local improvement initiatives			
<b>PD 2.6</b> Providing opportunities for teachers to experiment, practice, and obtain feedback as they integrate newly learned skills into their repertoire of instructional practices			
<b>PD 2.7</b> Regularly monitoring the progress of staff in achieving individual professional development goals	It is recommended that all staff who are currently teaching advanced placement/dual enrollment classes are evaluated.		✓

Use of Time and School Scheduling: Instructional Time			
Indicators	Significant Findings	AOS	AI
<b>TS 1.1</b> Basing decisions related to the pacing of the curriculum on state test blueprints and on student performance data			
<b>TS 1.2</b> Arranging classroom instructional time to allow for variety of instructional activities	The administration continues to assess time management with ongoing discussion of block scheduling.		✓
<b>TS 1.3</b> Organizing instruction and structuring lessons to maximize student time on task			
<b>TS 1.4</b> Maintaining a high level of student engagement throughout the lesson			
<b>TS 1.5</b> Using classroom instructional time to provide enrichment opportunities and support services to individuals and small groups based on students' identified strengths and needs			
<b>TS 1.6</b> Establishing classroom routines that maximize the use of non-instructional time			
<b>TS 1.7</b> Establishing school-wide organizational practices that minimize unnecessary interruptions to instructional time			
<b>TS 1.8</b> Regularly monitoring the use of instructional time in classrooms			

<b>Use of Time and School Scheduling: School Scheduling Practices</b>			
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Significant Findings</b>	<b>AOS</b>	<b>AI</b>
<p><b>TS 2.1</b> Meeting SOA requirements for length of school year, length of school day, or number of hours of instruction in core areas</p> <p>a. Length of school year (180 days OR 990 hours grades 1-12; 540 hours kindergarten)</p> <p>b. Length of school day (5 hours; 3 hours minimum for kindergarten only)</p> <p>c. Number of hours of instruction in core areas (ES: 75% in 4 core areas; MS/HS: 140 clock hours OR 560 total in 4 core areas for grade 6)</p>	Abingdon High School meets and/or exceeds the Virginia Department of Education requirements.	✓	
<p><b>TS 2.2</b> Building schedules that are based on identified learning and instructional needs and support the implementation of improvement initiatives</p>			
<p><b>TS 2.3</b> Scheduling non-academic events to minimally impact instructional time</p>			
<p><b>TS 2.4</b> Allocating time in the schedule for teachers to collaborate with other teachers, parents and students</p>			
<p><b>TS 2.5</b> Establishing procedures and communicating expectations related to the allocation and use of time</p>			
<p><b>TS 2.6</b> Ensuring that the time allocated for specific activities is used to complete essential tasks according to established expectations</p>			
<p><b>TS 2.7</b> Utilizing a school schedule that is conducive to providing intervention and remediation strategies and programs within the school day</p>	Certain classes at Abingdon High School are blocked for freshmen who are identified as at risk.	✓	
<p><b>TS 2.8</b> Allocating resources to extend learning time beyond the regular school day</p>			
<p><b>TS 2.9</b> Regularly monitoring the implementation of schedules and making adjustments, as needed, to maximize efficient use of time</p>			



Use of Data for Making Decisions: Instruction			
Indicators	Significant Findings	AOS	AI
<b>D 1.1</b> Using data/evidence from multiple sources to plan instruction that promotes that attainment of state standards and essential understandings, knowledge, and skills			
<b>D 1.2</b> Collecting, compiling, and analyzing data related to instructional practices to determine the degree of alignment with state learning standards and to identify professional development needs			
<b>D 1.3</b> Sharing responsibility for collecting and compiling data related to instructional programs and services			
<b>D 1.4</b> Sharing responsibility for analyzing data and making instructional decisions based on the results			
<b>D 1.5</b> Collecting and compiling individual student performance data to identify students' strengths and needs, plans instruction, and monitor individual student progress over time	The guidance department monitors student progress and adjusts student schedules as necessary.	✓	
<b>D 1.6</b> Using results of data analyses to design, monitor, and evaluate instructional programs, support services, and professional development activities	It is evident that data is used to target low achieving students through Project Graduation funds.	✓	
<b>D 1.7</b> Training staff in the processes and procedures for collecting and analyzing classroom-based, local, and state assessment data to make instructional decisions			

Use of Data for Making Decisions: School Improvement Planning			
Indicators	Significant Findings	AOS	AI
<b>D 2.1</b> Compiling and using data/evidence from several sources to develop a profile of the school related to student performance			
<b>D 2.2</b> Analyzing data/evidence related to the perceived limitations of instructional practices and organizational conditions to identify goals and objectives for school improvement planning			
<b>D 2.3</b> Analyzing data over time to look for trends in student performance and to identify strengths and limitations of instructional programs and services	Develop a data assessment plan to determine the overall effectiveness of the Freshman Academy Program.		✓
<b>D 2.4</b> Disaggregating state and local student performance data by appropriate subgroups of students to identify needs and monitor student progress			
<b>D 2.5</b> Collecting and analyzing data/evidence on a regular, periodic basis to monitor plan implementation and to evaluate improvements over time			
<b>D 2.6</b> Making data relevant to the implementation of school improvement strategies and initiatives available and accessible to staff			
<b>D 2.7</b> Training staff in collecting and analyzing data to identify relevant goals and objectives for school improvement planning and to monitor the plan's implementation and evaluate improvements over time			

### Comments

The committee enjoyed their visit to Abingdon High School. The following commendations are noted:

1. The use of a variety of diverse opportunities to meet the instructional needs of students are noted (ex: virtual programs; dual enrollment programs on/off campus, Freshman Academy, etc.)
2. There was strong evidence that the use of technology was readily apparent in the entire school through the utilization of the Smart Board, virtual field trips, various softwares, websites and computers.
3. Lessons were related to the essential knowledge of the Standards of Learning. It is apparent the faculty is using appropriate materials.

The following recommendations are noted:

1. Develop a data assessment system to determine the success rate of the Freshman Academy program.
2. Objectives and state standards should be clearly visible within all classrooms.
3. Differentiation strategies need to be incorporated into all classrooms.