

Appendix C Emerging Goal

Rationale:

Many Burnaby North students achieve extraordinary levels of academic success in their regular programs, Advanced Placement courses and exams, and extra-curricular activities. However, a segment of the population is significantly less successful in its program of study.

The school wishes to investigate the achievement gap that exists between these achievement groups, determine causes for those achievement gaps and explore and implement strategies to help close that achievement gap.

Process:

1. Initial Conversations with whole staff were held during the “School Plan Day” in January 2009. During the day we asked staff to consider the following guiding questions:
 - What are we proud of?
 - What are some areas of concern?
 - Who do you believe is not being successful?
 - How do we currently support students who are not learning?
 - What other data may be useful?
 - Do you have initial thoughts about a direction for a new success?

2. Department Head Retreat
We discussed in detail staff responses to School Plan Day discussion questions. Department heads began to identify broad areas of concern, such as:
 - need to look at students who are not involved in school activities (clubs, sports, etc.,) to see if a correlation exists with lower achievement
 - focus on students in low ‘C’ to high fail range
 - Increase emphasis and significance of work habits mark

3. Examining the data
We examined some initial data to test our hypothesis that a particular age and/or gender group emerged as in need of targeted intervention. Our initial findings concluded:
 - no specific age or gender group immediately emerged as statistically variant from other age or gender groups
 - initial examination of the data did not identify specific student categories in need of intervention
 - clear patterns of achievement data did not direct us to a particular portion of the student body beyond “those achieving lower than the high-achieving students”
 - data has been provided to member of the School Planning Council for further analysis

4. Moving forward

Establish team to examine an emerging goal of *closing the achievement gap*, working with students who are achieving C, C- or F to increase success.

The team will further examine data to determine if a specific focus group will be identified, strategies for learners and teachers, etc.