

Malcolm Public Schools
Safe & Responsive Schools
Team Plan
2001-2002

Goals for 2001-2002

- Team members complete school practices survey & come to consensus
- Administer safety survey to students, parents, and staff
- Use the information obtained for the surveys to prioritize and select several target areas to address during current school year

The Malcolm SRS team, consisting of 8 members, each individually completed the School Practices survey and then discussed this as a group at which time they compiled a group consensus. Areas that the team identified as potential avenues to address included: crisis team, bullying, alternative programs for students with severe behavior issues, student code of conduct, cross-age school mentoring, parental involvement, coordinating services with community agencies, and continuing the “well-managed classroom” model.

Parents were invited to complete the Safety Survey during parent-teacher conferences in October. Shortly after, students and staff also completed a web-based version of the survey. Sixty-two parents, 84 elementary students, 250 secondary students, and 36 staff completed the survey. Results indicated that in general all feel that school is a safe place overall. Particular items that were endorsed as potential areas of concern included threats by students, physical fighting/conflicts, name calling/teasing, and arguments. Although parents and staff endorsed these items as well, the students indicated that these were of more concern or occurred more frequently than endorsed by parents and staff.

Based on the results of the team’s consensus from the school practices survey as well as the Safety Survey, the Malcolm team decided to target discipline, particularly with regard to the issue of bullying. Areas of concern included lack of structure on the playground, passing times for middle and high school students, and before and after school supervision. The team decided to invite a speaker to speak on the topic of bullying to parents, staff, and students. One member of the team, Ryan Terwilliger, designed a Bullying Awareness brochure, which was handed out to parents and staff and included in the school newsletter. Dr. Susan Swearer from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln conducted an in-service workshop for staff, an evening workshop for parents, and focus groups with elementary and secondary students. Topics addressed included the definition of bullying, affects of bullying, and how to deal with bullying.

After the workshops, the team discussed reaction from students and staff as well as possibly how to proceed. No definite decision was made, although members indicated that some follow-through and continuation with regard to the workshops would be of benefit. Team members also began discussing options for a peer mediation program and will possibly consider beginning this next year.

Goals for 2002-2003

- Continue school-wide bully awareness program
- Explore possibility of establishing a peer mediation program