

News Release

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Today's Date: Friday, September 20, 2013

Release Date: **Immediate**

Subject: Plan in Place to Increase Achievement at SMS and in All Schools

Lynchburg –Sandusky Middle School has received the status of Accredited with Warning for the third consecutive year, and school administrators are confident that we have a plan, and the plan is working.

"It's time to look past the reports from Washington and Richmond that treat your children as a test score," said Lynchburg City Schools Superintendent Scott Brabrand. "Start listening to the truth from the public school teachers and educators in Lynchburg and across Virginia who treat your children as their own."

LCS has a division-wide Comprehensive Plan around achievement, behavior and culture. It has been monitored and updated based on the 2012-13 data.

What interventions are in place in LCS schools to provide students with additional support?

- Double- block classes for reading and math
- New math software that addresses student deficits in math
- New web-based methods for diagnosing individual student needs
- Lead Academic Coaches providing instructional support to all teachers
- Implementation of a research-based positive student behavior intervention system
- Additional math intervention teacher (specific to SMS)
- Math coaches at all five secondary schools
- VDOE sponsored Math and Reading Institutes for teachers

When will Sandusky Middle School present its school improvement plan?

- All school improvement plans will be presented to the school board on October 12. All schools are developing school improvement plans using the Indistar Planning Tool.
- All plans include three rapid improvement indicators with associated tasks around student achievement.
- These indicators include identifying students in need of intervention in reading and/or math, providing tiered interventions to the identified students and monitoring the progress of the students as well as the effectiveness of the interventions being used.
- All schools are also required to include at least one indicator and associated tasks around behavior and culture.

"Public school teachers are working harder than ever," Brabrand says. "If you don't believe me, just ask– I am sure one of your friends or family members knows a public school teacher. They have increased student expectations, increased workload and increased testing. And these teachers are producing results. In Lynchburg City Schools more students are taking harder classes, getting higher grades and graduating at higher rates."

Dr. Brabrand will be available for interview between 1 and 1:30 p.m. this afternoon, Friday, September 20.