

REED-CUSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL
STATE REPORT CARD NARRATIVE
NOVEMBER, 2004

PLANNED IMPROVEMENT FOR REED-CUSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Reed-Custer Middle School continues to base all school improvement activities on our North Central Association five year School Improvement Plan, which we initiated three years ago. This Plan has as its foundation the two building Goals established at that time, namely to improve student reading across all content areas and to improve student writing in all classes. Since its inception, we have undergone a number of staff development activities aimed at accomplishing these two goals. As we conclude the final two years of this Plan, the goals of improving student reading and writing will continue to be our focus.

As we compare our ISAT scores this past spring with those from last year, there are a number of signs which indicate student improvement. First of all, due to the outstanding efforts of our students and teachers, our eighth grade Writing Scores showed a drastic improvement from the previous two years. The writing strategies we utilize throughout the building to help students learn to write, have undergone considerable revision over the past few years. The most recent ISAT writing scores indicate that these changes and efforts have paid huge dividends. We showed a 20% increase in our writing scores this year, having two-thirds of our eighth graders meet or exceed the State Standard on this test. In fact, RCMS either maintained or showed an increase in all categories of ISAT this past year, with the exception of eighth grade Math. Our seventh grade Science and Social Studies scores were higher, and our eighth grade Reading scores were consistent. The drop in Math was less than four points, and we still had over 65% of the students meet or exceed the State Standard (the state average was 54%).

We continue to be concerned with the scoring level of the sub groups in our building, concerns that are shared by virtually every school in the State. Our population of Special Education students, for example, did not meet required levels in some areas of achievement, based on the standards established with the Federal Law, No Child Left Behind. This is an area that we will continue to have as a focus, as we attempt to improve the achievement level of those students in our building who are fighting to overcome learning disabilities.

The Staff Development activities for this current year have included separate presentations to the staff and to our Language Arts teachers, on reading and writing strategies. We will continue to focus on these two areas for the rest of this school year and next year as well. In addition, we will be working with our Special Education teachers and Supported Education staff, in exploring new ways to improve the achievement level of our Special Education sub group of students. All of us here at Reed-Custer Middle School continue to be totally committed to the improvement of student achievement in all of these areas. We will work together, enlisting the help of the students and parents, with our goal being steady and consistent student improvement in all areas.