



Office of Achievement Gap Elimination Information

*Division of Accountability
Tennessee Department of Education*



The Achievement Gap

“Education is perhaps the most powerful force in America related to improving one’s status in life. It is widely accepted, in fact, that education is the single most important factor in improving one’s socioeconomic status. This may be especially true for racial minorities and others of low socioeconomic status who have not shared equally in the rewards of America’s economic prosperity.



The Achievement Gap

...Education offers a way to break down barriers such as poverty and racial injustice by opening doors to better employment opportunities and political empowerment....As Fischer *et al.* (1996) and others have noted, a symbiotic relationship between education and prosperity exists, both on an individual and a societal level.”

(Green, 2005)



Establishment

Legislative Authority: 105th General Assembly

Amendment #2 to HB 2353

\$ 600,000 in funding

Seven (7) Full Time Positions

5 Professional

2 Administrative

State High Priority Schools

School Improvement 1 & 2 and

School Improvement 1 & 2 Improving

Subgroups: SWD, ED, ELL and others



Belief, Mission and Vision

Belief: The Office of Achievement Gap Elimination believes that with consistent focused and appropriate strategies designed to address the identified sub-group needs, proficient and Advanced levels of academic performance is attainable.

Mission: To work collaboratively with Local Education Agencies (LEAs), their High Priority Schools and Education Stakeholders to increase the knowledge and skills needed to help all students in High Priority schools reach proficient and advanced levels of academic performance.

Vision: No students performing below proficient academically.



The Office of Achievement Gap Elimination (AGE)

Director: Gwendolyn Watson

Consultants:

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The Purpose

The

“WHAT”



The Purpose

I. Move Below Proficient Students to Proficient or Advanced

II. Build State Education Agency (SEA) Capacity To Support High Priority Schools

III. Collaborate and Communicate



Goal I

Move Below Proficient Students in each identified sub-group to Proficient or Advanced

- **Create Achievement Gap Track for each Sub-group**
- **Identify each child that is below proficient and develop a Personal Learning Plan (PLP) / ePortfolio Project / Course of Action**
- **Create a systemic schoolwide structure that outlines the support for underperforming students**
- **Conduct School Improvement Implementation Checks**



Goal II

Build SEA Capacity To Support High Priority Schools

Provide and Share Professional Development for Achievement Gap Elimination /Accountability Office

- Curricular/Instructional Management
- Building/Supporting Leadership Teams
- Data Driven Change-Academic and Non-Academic
- Teacher Quality/Effectiveness
- Instructional Leadership Development
- Successful High School Completion
- Other



Goal III

Collaborate and Communicate

- Engage Local Education Agencies/School representatives in training and planning for closing the Achievement Gap
- Engage other SEA Divisions and Departments in the work – *“The Big Picture”*
- Engage Community and Practitioners



The Process

The

“HOW”



The Process: Triage

Provide Subgroup Assistance

- Level I- Schools in Most Serious State
 - **School Improvement II**
- Level II-Schools in Serious State
 - **School Improvement I**
- Level III-Schools in a Moderate Serious State
 - **School Improvement I & II Improving**

Each Achievement Gap Elimination (AGE) Consultant has been assigned to the degree possible an equal number of schools in each level



The Approach

AGE Consultants Will Take

1. Build Working Knowledge and Background

- Read School Improvement Plans for assigned Schools
- Read Reports from EEs for assigned schools

2. High Visibility

- AGE Consultants will meet with Administrators, School Leadership Teams and Exemplary Educators to establish relationships and protocols for the work outlined in Goal Targets and AGE Proposal

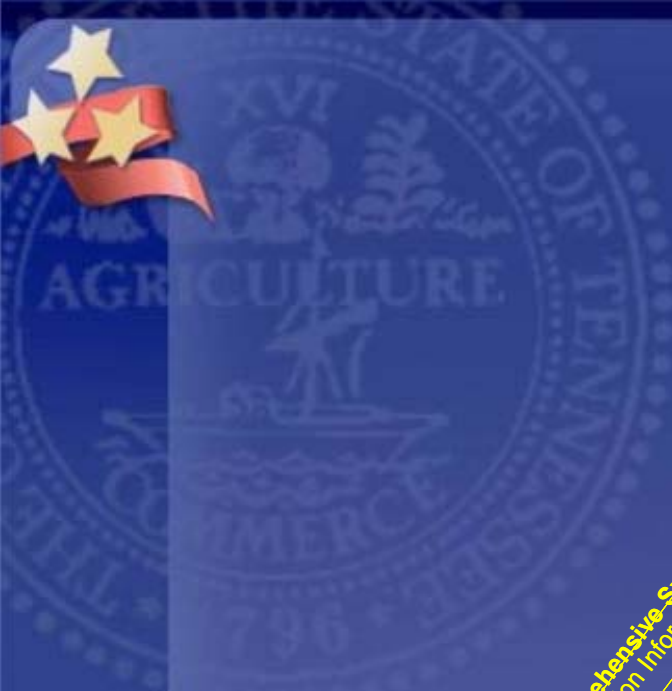
3. Conduct Regular Implementation Checks

- School Improvement II (Level I) – monthly
- School Improvement I and Improving 1 & 2 (Levels II and III) - quarterly



Responsibilities of AGE Consultants

- Convene a “*What’s A Good School*” Appraisal in all School Improvement 2 Schools
- Create a Technical Assistance Plan based on findings and aligned to Tennessee School Improvement Plan (TSIP)
- Monitor TSIP Implementation for identified target groups
- Present Progress Reports for each school in Monthly Staff Meetings for case management



T.C.S.P.P. (Tennessee Comprehensive Systemwide Planning Process)
E.I.S. (Education Information System)

T.S.I.P.P. (Tennessee School Improvement Planning Process)
Blueprint for Learning

Level I Support
(Exemplary Educator/STAT/
AGE Team Approach)
(Urban Specialist)

High Priority Schools / Systems
(Years 2 – 6)
(Division of Assessment & Accountability)
(Division of Special Education / Career Technical Education /
Teaching & Learning / Resources & Support Services)

Level II Support
(Field Services Center Personnel / School Improvement Personnel)
(Title I / Federal Programs)

Target Schools / Systems
(Year 1)
(Division of Special Education / Career Technical Education /
Teaching & Learning / Resources & Support Services)

State of Tennessee Technical Assistance Plan



Level II Support

**YEAR I – Targeted Schools and Systems
Field Service Center Personnel, School Improvement
Personnel, and Title I/ Federal Programs
Resources and Support Services from the Division of
Special Education, Career Technical Education,
Teaching and Learning**



Level I Support

**Support from the Division
of Assessment and
Accountability (years 2-6)**

System Targeted Assistance Team

Achievement Gap Elimination Consultant

Exemplary Educators

Urban Specialist





**“Failure is not an option.
Excuses are not acceptable.
Excellence is our Goal.”**





Thank You!

Questions?



Tennessee Department of Education

**Division of Assessment and
Accountability**

Office of Achievement Gap Elimination

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