



## Promising Practice Capture Sheet

**School:** William Blount High School

Rural  Suburban  Urban

**District:** Blount County Schools

Region: East

**Practice:** Word of the Week (WOW) – ACT Vocabulary

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*Name*

*Title*

*Email / Phone*

**Connection to Strategic Plan:**

<b>Goals:</b>	Top Half of States on NAEP – 4th and 8th Grade Math and ELA	State Average of 21 Composite ACT	55% of the class of 2020 obtains postsecondary credential		
<b>How best practice addresses:</b>		Focus on increasing the average ACT score by 1.3 percent.	Increase the number of students going to and completing postsecondary programs.		
<b>Priority Areas:</b>	Early Foundations	Empower Districts	Support Educators	High School Bridge to Postsecondary	All Means All
<b>How best practice applies:</b>			Collaboration with teachers to create a list of difficult cross-curricular academic vocabulary. Teachers use the difficult cross-curricular academic vocabulary through instructional strategies and assessments. A new set of words is created for each quarter.	Regardless of content area and grade, all students focused on one word a week that was related to the ACT exam.	



**Practices:**

- Culture
- Instructional
- Training/PD
- Accountability
- Programmatic
- Policy Change
- Funding
- Other:

**Project Specific Indicators:**

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**The Challenge:**

The challenge was to increase the ACT average score by .4 percent each year.

We realized the importance of having all teachers on board to implement this successfully.

At times, teachers found it difficult to integrate the “WOW” into their lesson for the week.

**Results:**

- Increased student achievement results
  - ACT
  - TNReady/EOC/TVAAS
  - NIC
  - EPS
- Decreased remediation and/or subgroup gaps
- Increased student readiness results (non-academic)
- Increased partnerships / alignment
- Increased participation / program growth

**The Vision:**

Building academic capacity for all students and bridge academic structures, which will ultimately create a seamless postsecondary transition.

**Action Steps Taken / Summary of To-Do's:**

- Brainstorming session with all staff
- Develop list of ACT words across all academic content areas
- Develop ACT PowerPoint to provide overview
- Need a point person or committee to communicate via email reminders, upload documentation (lesson plans) from teachers via Google Classroom

**Lessons Learned:** *Include advice on start-up and sustainability*

The Professional Development Committee led a session on how to help with literacy school-wide to gain insight from all teachers. During the teacher collaboration, teachers came with words and explained how they would use the word within their respective content area. The Professional Development Committee further developed the “WOW” word implementation plan.

**Communications:**

-Email reminders  
 -WOW on the TV scrolling for all individuals in the building to see  
 -WOW on bulletin board and word walls in classrooms  
 -Instructions for teachers regarding instructional strategies and assessments using WOW Tier 2 vocabulary

**Stakeholder Management:**

Principal and administration  
 Teachers  
 ACT Teacher  
 Students

**Metrics & Measurements:**

<b>Baseline Data</b>	<b>Progress to Date</b>	<b>Goals</b>
This strategy is in the first year of implementation.	We have evidence of teacher's lesson plans and student work for implementation from Quarter 1 and Quarter 2.	We plan to continue next school year with a new list of words. Look at ACT scores from last school year and compare to this school year.

**Resources:**

- **Google Classroom**
- **Academic standards from all content areas**

*Note: In addition to websites, materials, and tools, Include other LEAs or schools who are also strong in this practice, if known.*