

## HAMILTON COUNTY JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

### **PLANNED IMPROVEMENT FOR THE SCHOOL AND DISTRICT**

*Based on your school's improvement plan, your school and district are providing information on areas of success and areas for planned improvement below and/or on a separate sheet.*

During the 2005-2006 school year, Hamilton County Junior/Senior High School will celebrate four complete years of operation as a grades 7-12 learning institution. Many exciting and rewarding educational experiences have taken place during this time frame. The students, faculty and staff are still very proud of the facility and students are continuing to make academic gains. With our school having modern science labs, a state-of-the-art media center, a multi-purpose commons area and various computer labs, our students benefit from an excellent learning environment.

As noted on the *school report card*, students at Hamilton County Junior/Senior High School demonstrated both strengths and weaknesses on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test and the Prairie State Achievement Exam.

Over the past six years, the ISAT has been given to students in grade seven in the areas of science, social science, fine arts, physical development and health; at grade eight students have been tested in the areas of reading, math, and writing. However, in 2005, due to a significant budget cut to the Illinois State Board of Education, the only areas tested were science at the seventh grade level and math and reading at the eighth grade level.

On the 2005 ISAT, Hamilton County seventh grade students performed well, relative to other students in the state, in science. There were only 3.1 % of our students at the *academic warning* level compared to 10.4 % at the state level. Eighty-three and seven-tenths percent of our seventh graders either *met or exceeded standards* compared to 74.6 % at the state level.

Hamilton County eighth graders scored well in the areas of reading and mathematics. In reading, none of our students fell in the *academic warning* category, and 79.6 % of our students *met or exceeded standards* compared to 72.8 % at the state level. In mathematics, 66.0 % of our students *met or exceeded standards* compared to 54.3 % at the state level.

Hamilton County eleventh grade students scored below the state average on the PSAE in reading, mathematics, and science. In reading, 47.9% of our students *met or exceeded standards*, compared to a state average of 59.5%. On the mathematics section, 44.9% of our students tested *met or exceeded standards* as opposed to the 52.8% state average. In science, 47.9% of our students *met or exceeded standards*, compared to the state average of 52.5%.

The *College Readiness Report* for the Hamilton County Senior High School denotes scores that are more positive than the PSAE. This report reflects the achievement of eleventh grade students in the academic areas of English, mathematics, reading, and science. It is designed to measure the skills needed for success in first year college coursework. Hamilton County students scored a 20.5 in English compared to a national average of 19.9, a 20.5 in mathematics compared to a national average of 20.2, a 20.7 in reading compared to a national average of 20.3, a score of 20.8 in science compared to a national average of 20.4, and a composite of 20.7 compared to a national average of 20.3.

For the 2005-06 school year, school improvement strategies include continuing to work on our five-year cycle of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The faculty has chosen the following two goals that will be our focus for school improvement over the next two years: 1. All students will improve their ability to apply math skills across the curriculum. 2. All students will increase their reading comprehension skills across the curriculum.

The faculty and staff will continue its effort to more closely aligning the junior/senior high curriculum to the *Illinois Learning Standards*. Teachers will spend time examining and choosing outside resources that will better prepare students in taking various standardized tests.

In addition, a committee comprised of teachers, administration and board of education will review the new *State Graduation Requirements* (P.A. 94-0676 (SB 575) and plan for implementation of changes in minimum state-required courses for students graduating in 2009, which is the current ninth graders. The new graduation requirements will change the district requirement of two years credit in mathematics to three. Students graduating in 2010 must also have two years credit in writing-intensive classes, one of which must be an English course. Our district does not currently offer a writing-intensive course. Also beginning in 2010, the new mathematics requirement will include a minimum of one year of Algebra I and one year that includes geometry content.