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SED 335

Module 3 – Comparisons

**Central Versus Perry Elementary**

Frazier School District in Perryopolis, PA has two elementary schools, Central and Perry Elementary, and because of the socioeconomic status between the two schools there has often been possible discrepancies in education because of location. Central Elementary is a rural population with economically disadvantaged at 40.28, while Perry Elementary is a higher populated area with an economically disadvantage of 28.42. Because the district is building a new elementary and middle school, Central is housing 144 students, while Perry houses 482 students. The majority of the students are White (not Hispanic) averaging out at 98.27, and Black/African American at .45 between the two schools. The Asian population peeked at Perry at .62, but the Multi-Racial culture peeked at Central at .69.

When comparing scores, I have found that Central scored significantly lower in reading at 62.50, but Perry scored at 73.01. In math the scores were closer with Central at 72.72 and Perry at 76.54. However, in science Central scored 88.46 and Perry scored 82.46. The PSSA (NRT) shows the similarities in scores, but if placed on a bell curve, on average the students would show higher scores on average.

The possible discrepancy between data between the schools is because the location of Perry Elementary is the same as the high school and administration, but Central Elementary is located 7.26 miles away in a rural setting. The changes in curriculum for the new combined elementary schools would be an enhanced STEAM/STEM program and a more literacy enriched environment. Lectures are not always effective; the use of technology and providing virtual fieldtrips would engage the students. Frequent CRTs will help teachers monitor and determine what changes need made in the curriculum to have effective outcomes for the following year.

To increase reading scores, literacy enriched classrooms will be implemented. Word Walls, Reading Buddy Programs, Baggie Books to take home, and literacy games will be a part of the everyday curriculum. In a socioeconomic disadvantage environment, the Baggie Book program will allow children to take home literature that is on their reading level to practice reading to increase fluency. A hands on environment combining math and science will increase math scores and engage kinesthetic learners. Combining math across curriculums and showing students how to apply it in other areas, students are likely to remember the material and understand how to apply it. This combination will also increase PSSA (NRT) scores in both math and science.

Teachers receiving the new test scores with the changes can compare them to the old test scores. The Bell Curve average will show the majority of the students on the curve or to the right of the curve, meeting or exceeding the curriculum. A combined curriculum and accommodating to the needs of the socioeconomic disadvantaged students will increase the test scores across the board for all students within the district. These changes provide equality in the classroom and support for each student’s needs.

**References**

Pennsylvania Department of Education. (2015). School Performance Profile: Frazier HS. Retrieved February 21, 2015, from <http://paschoolperformance.org/Profile/4108>