J.E.Hill-Sampson L. Freedman Middle School
“Be Proactive”

- School Type - Magnet
- Size - 278 Students
- Geographic Location - Urban School in Philadelphia
- Assessments - Terra Nova, PSSA, Gates, WRAP, Star Reading/Math, Benchmark Assessment
- Other - Special Needs Population, Early Childhood Population
School District of Philadelphia

“Be Proactive”

• 270 Schools - Twelve Geographic Regions
• 180,000+ Students
• 12,000+ Teachers
• State takeover in December 2001/SRC
• 2002-2006 PSSA gains in scores have been increasing or have been maintained
• Reform initiatives yield positive impact
Challenges of Meeting a Child-Centered Environment

“Be Proactive”

- Lack of Resources
- Varied Instructional Ability Levels
- Lack of Unified Curriculum
- Parent Education
- Student Work Ethic
- Communicating Data
Core Curriculum
“Be Proactive”

• Need for Equity and Coherence
• Provides Alignment
• Detailed, Prescriptive: What, How, When
• Six Week Chunks/PSSA Checkpoints in Week 2 and 4
• Benchmark Assessment and Analysis in Week 5 Remediation, Enrichment, Re-teaching in Week 6
Assessment

“Begin with the End in Mind”

- Baseline data to assess varied ability levels
- SchoolNet
- Principal dashboard
- Communicating data
- Student self-monitoring
Crossing the Digital Divide

“First Things First”

• Bridging the Achievement Gap
• Modeling and Exposure to Excellence
• Enhance Instruction
• Remediation, Review and Enrichment
• Powerful Twenty-First Century Tools
Philadelphia - Our Extended Classroom
Promotion of Natural Ability

“Think Win-Win”

• Teacher’s - “The Greatest Resource”
• Student Experiences
• Accelerated Program for all Students
• Resources of the City
• Arts Program
• Broad Spectrum of Special Needs Population
The Teenage Brain

“Seek First to Understand”

- Adolescence is a Pivotal Time
- Student Work Ethic
- Novelty and Structure
- Informed Rules and Guidelines
- Instructional Strategies
- Diverse Arts and Sports Programs
Building Community - Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens

“Seek First to Understand”

- School-Wide
- Mission Statements
- Formation of Positive Habits
- Model for Excellence
- Goal Setting
Compensation of Areas of Inherent Disadvantage or Fragility
“Synergy”

- Students as Stakeholders
- Coordinated Student Services
  - CSAP
  - Guidance Classes
  - Medical Services
A Structured/Organized Comprehensive Middle School Program
“Synergy”

- Ease of transition
- Community vs. institution
- Student self exploration and development
- Support and structure
Summary Points
“Renewal”

• Key Learning's
  1. Vision and Leadership are Essential
  2. Sense of Community
  3. PDSA: Plan, Do, Study, Analyze

• Challenges Still Ahead
  1. Raising the Bar - Continuing Excellence
  2. Continue to be Agents of Change and Renewal
  3. Doing More with Less