

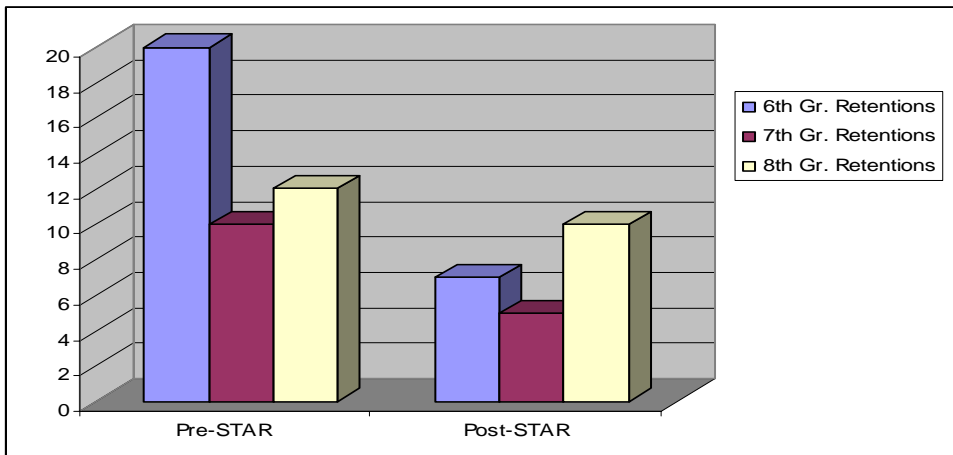
**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY  
SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARD (SPARC)  
2006 – 2007**

**School:** Farnell Middle School  
**Enrollment:** 1350  
**Principal:** John Cobb  
**Counselor:** Linda Counts, Beverly Green, Jennifer Staat

**Principal's Comments**

The STAR program has had a positive impact on our retained student population and beyond. All students have recognized that it is possible to reverse poor motivation and low achievement by following the example of our successful STAR students. Our Guidance Staff is to be commended for their efforts with this program.

**Results**



**Baseline data:** 20 retained 6<sup>th</sup> graders, 10 retained 7<sup>th</sup> graders, and 12 retained 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Data after action plan:** 20 of the 42 students were promoted by the end of the first semester. (13-6<sup>th</sup> Graders, 5-7<sup>th</sup> Graders, and 2-8<sup>th</sup> Graders). This represents a 48% promotion rate.

**School Improvement Issues**

Research has shown that students show greater achievement gains when placed with age-appropriate peers, thus reducing the risk for dropping out.

**Critical Data Element(s):**

Reduction in retention rate/increase in promotion rate

**Systemic Changes and Interim Data Results**

1. There has been an increase in collaboration between parents, students, administrators, teachers, counselors, and other school staff to improve the promotion rate of at-risk students.
2. Students who participated in the STAR program learned and used valuable self-help strategies, which we expect will serve them as they move through high school and beyond.

## Stakeholders

All stakeholders were involved in the success of STAR in 2006-2007.

### School Counselor(s)

#### Initial Planning:

- Collaborated with Administration to gain support for STAR program.
- Hold a placement committee meeting at end of prior school year to gather info from teachers and counselors on at risk students.
- Inserviced faculty on goals and delivery of STAR program.
- Identified potential candidates from SDHC of prior retainees and newly registered retainees.
- Revised STAR forms.
- Planned for parent/student kickoff meeting.
- Invited parents via US mail..
- Held kick-off meeting with parents and students on 8/25/06.
- Received and reviewed initial forms from participating students.
- Collaborate with faculty and administration to make placement/promotion decisions at end of first quarter.
- Evaluate and place students in Connect-A-Kid mentoring program if appropriate.
- Collaborate with teachers on placement/promotion of STAR students after 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

#### Ongoing/weekly basis:

- Distribute weekly progress updates to students.
- Counsel students on academic success and needs based on each week's data.
- Consult with faculty on individual students' progress as needed.
- Collaborate with parents as needed.

### Teachers

- Provide updated info via individual student progress notes on a weekly basis.

### Administrators

- Identify students at risk for retention or administrative placement (prior school year).

### Social Worker

- Collaborate with teachers and Guidance to monitor school attendance.
- Provide attendance intervention as necessary.
- Provide referrals for services to families as needed

## The Human Faces Behind the Data Anecdotal Outcomes

One of our 7<sup>th</sup> grade students, stands out as a particular "success story" for our STAR program. Last year, she had numerous discipline referrals, poor attendance, extremely low grades (despite high test scores), and poor motivation. She presented as a student who showed high potential for dropping out of school. This year, through her own efforts, group counseling, and the rapport established with her counselor, this student made honor roll first and second quarters, came to school regularly, handled her anger appropriately (only one disciplinary referral this year) and was recommended for upgrade to 8<sup>th</sup> grade by the semester break. She now sees herself as a successful young lady with a bright future. She recently was awarded the "Turnaround Student Award" for Farnell Middle School.