

**Hope Academy HISD External Charter High School  
Secondary Level**

**Linda E. Whitley, Principal**

**2012-2013**

**Continuous School Improvement Planning Goals  
Houston Independent School District**

**Executive Summary**

**Information**

Located in the historic Third Ward neighborhood of Houston, Texas, Hope Academy is an accelerated, coeducational HISD External Charter High School. Led by President/CEO of the Hope Education District, Dr. D.Z. Cofield, Hope Academy targets young people in grades 9 through 12 (who were in 9<sup>th</sup> grade 2010-2011 and earlier), are experiencing academic difficulty, behavioral challenges and other issues that have not allowed them to have success in a traditional high school setting. Hope Academy serves young men and women who are considered at high risk for failure academically as well as in life, addressing many issues and obstacles they face which put them at a tremendous disadvantage in the pursuit of a normal, healthy adult life.

The vision of Hope Academy is to produce youth who are academically excellent, functioning at their appropriate grade level and to assist them in developing appropriate decision making and critical thinking skills. Hope Academy's mission is to cultivate students into creative builders of their future who exemplify exceptional character. We enable all students to succeed by providing an accelerated academic program, flexibility, and engaging relationships with a mutual respect for learning environment.

The Six Pillars of Hope Academy are:

- Character
- Competency
- Caring
- Commitment
- Courage
- Community

These pillars undergird the academic and affective program at Hope Academy.

**Comprehensive Needs Assessment**

The 2011-2012 school year marked the third year of operation for Hope Academy. During its inaugural year, twelve (12) students graduated compared to thirty-two (32) graduates in 2011, and sixty students in 2012. Clearly, the mission and vision of Hope Academy is being realized.

Hope Academy maintained the *Academically Acceptable* Alternative Accountability accreditation rating from the Texas Education Agency since no new ratings were given this assessment transition year; however, Adequate Yearly Progress was not met in the areas of math and reading performance. Student achievement as measured by TAKS and End of Course tests needs improvement. To this end, increased student achievement is the priority for the 2012-2013 school year.

A more rigorous academic program will be delivered by a reconstituted staff of academic core teachers. Targeted professional development will focus on building an academic vocabulary, and will be in utilized by each teacher to address the academic learning gaps of our students.

### **Inquiry Process and Analysis**

SMART Goals for the 2012-2013 school year are as follows:

**Goal 1:** Increase student attendance to 90% each month of the 2012-2013 school year.

**Goal 2:** By the end of the 2012-2013 school year, student achievement in math and science will increase to 83% passing.

**Goal 3:** By the end of the 2012-2013 school year, student achievement in reading and writing will increase to 83% passing.

### **Quality Design and Planning**

A comprehensive plan has been developed to address the academic areas that need to be strengthened. This plan has been built on the work of Robert Marzano and Debra Pickering in their book, Building Academic Vocabulary, and Mike Schmoker in his book, Focus, and will focus on what we teach, how we teach and authentic literacy. Teachers will participate in ongoing professional development regarding building an academic vocabulary, effective lessons, effective questioning strategies, rigor and the lesson cycle.

Teachers will integrate the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills into meaningful project based learning. Teachers will also utilize the sixteen Habits of Mind and the nine Marzano research-based instructional strategies for increasing student achievement. Each student will be assigned an adult advocate and will develop a Personal Graduation Plan.

Professional Development will be provided by members of HISD's Professional Development Department, Region IV and the Harris County Department of Education.

The faith-based community has embraced Hope Academy, as many of the members of the Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church serve as tutors, mentors and volunteers.

### **Continuous Improvement Monitoring and Evaluation**

The process to be used to determine baseline achievement levels of students will be benchmark tests in every subject at the beginning of each semester and formative assessments in each subject each month.

Teachers will check for mastery through analysis of formative assessments throughout the school year. The principal will conduct daily walkthroughs of classrooms to ensure that high quality teaching and learning is occurring. As needs are identified, professional development, resources and coaching will be provided to teachers to increase effectiveness of curriculum implementation and instructional delivery.

Teachers will share best practices that yield high levels of learning for students. Plans for tiered interventions will be implemented and modified to meet the needs of all students. Accelerated instruction will be provided for those students who demonstrate mastery of basic skills to provide deeper learning that is rigorous and relevant to real-world experiences. Hope Academy will continually monitor teaching to ensure high levels of learning for all students.