

Grace King High School

Metairie, Louisiana

Why do we need to re-design our 9th grade?

Base statistics from 2005-2006:

- 74% promotion rate from 9th grade to 10th grade
- 48.8% of 9th graders failed one or more core classes
- 2.9% of 9th graders dropping out

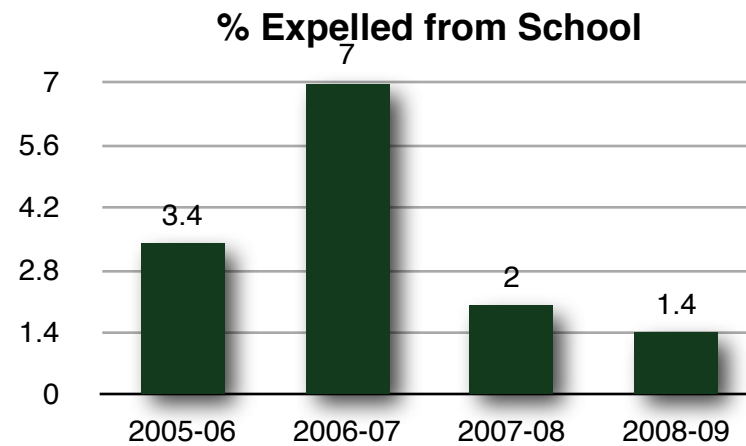
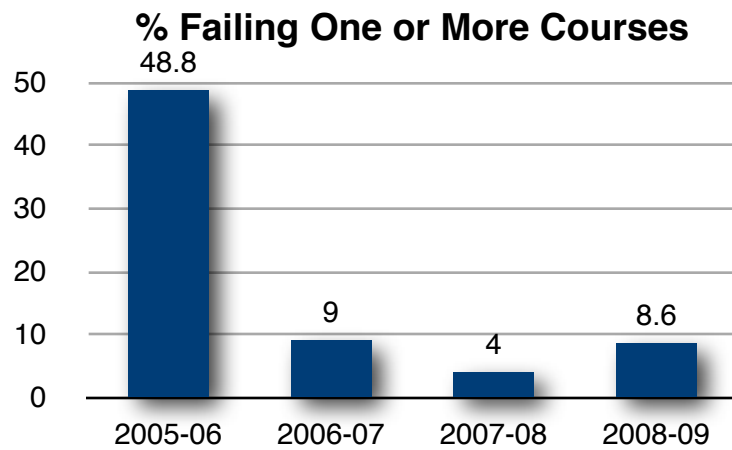
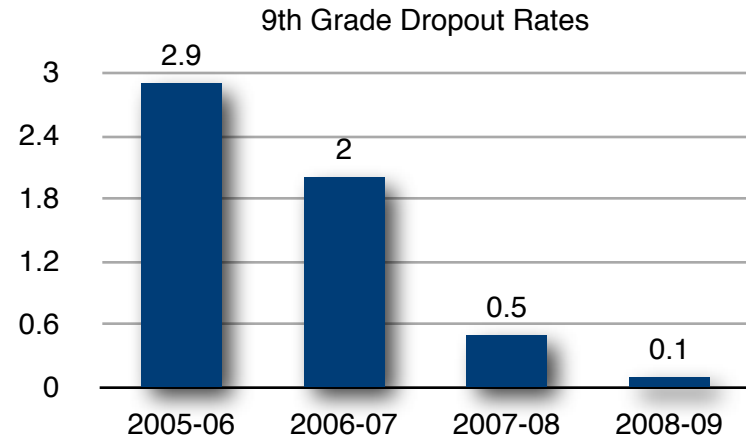
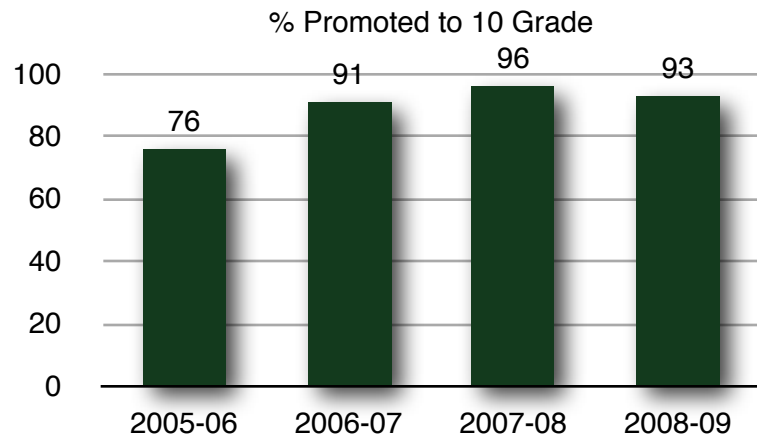
Planning and Implementation

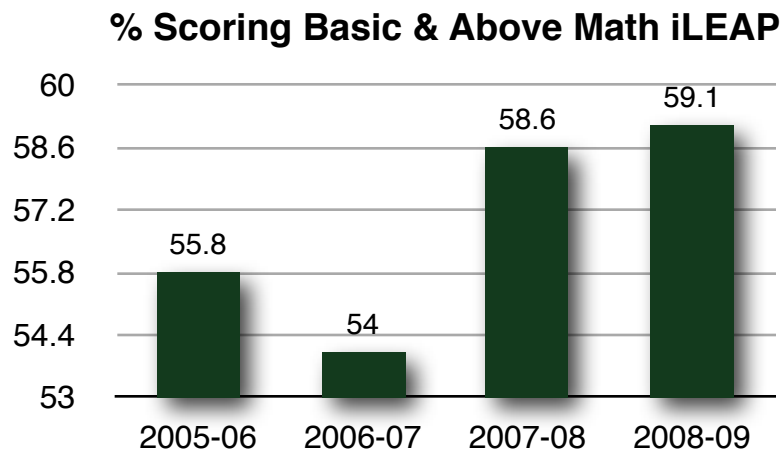
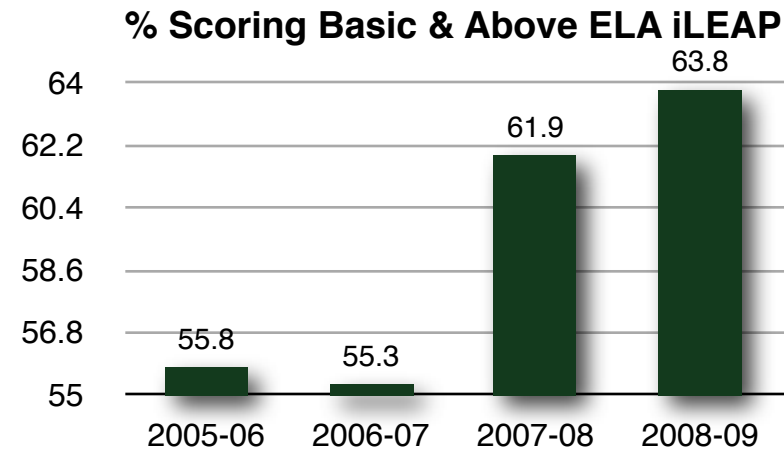
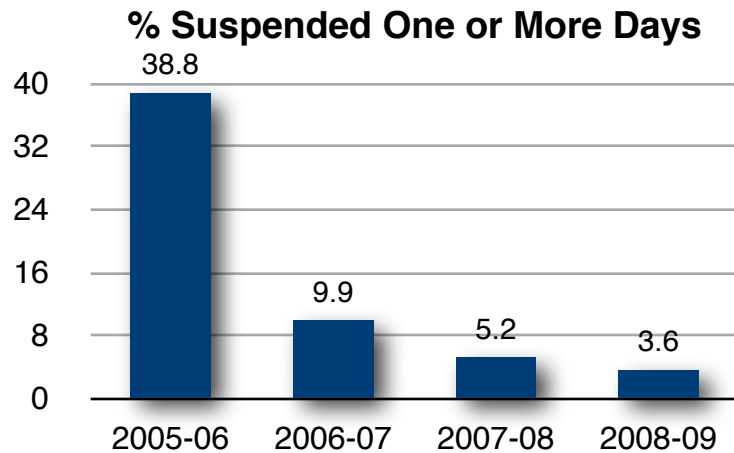
- Follow The George Washington University's 10-Step Plan for Implementing a Freshman Transition Initiative
- Use *Career Choices* as the curriculum
- Require all freshmen to take:
 - Composition/English
 - Transitions to Math/Algebra
 - World Geography/Integrated Science
 - Education for Careers (*Career Choices*)/Basic Computer Applications
- Limit class size to 25 students or fewer
- Assign a counselor and academic dean to work only with the 9th graders (300 students)
- Hand-pick 9th grade teachers and provide them with comprehensive professional development
- Establish the mottos, “**Failure is not an option**” and “**Strive for an ‘A’ Everyday**”
- Require a collective agreement to maintaining consistency and establishing rewards and consequences



Failure is not an option.

Results





" After one year of implementing our initiative, a former school superintendent and parent of a 9th grader who has had behavioral and academic problems since the first grade informed us that this is the happiest she has ever seen her son at school. He wants to get up in the morning. He thinks all of his teachers are the best he has ever had. As a result, he has not had one behavioral issue, and his grades have gone from barely passing to all 'Cs' and above. **"**

Pamela Pritchard, Assistant Principal

Failure is not an option.

<http://king.jppss.k12.la.us/king>