Executive Summary

South Salem Elementary School
Newton County School System

Mrs. Holly H. Dubois, Principal
5335 Salem Rd
Covington, GA 30016-7919
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .................................................................................................................................................. 1
Description of the School .......................................................................................................................... 2
School's Purpose ...................................................................................................................................... 4
Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement .................................................................................. 6
Additional Information ............................................................................................................................. 8
Introduction

Every school has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the school makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school stays faithful to its vision. Many factors contribute to the overall narrative such as an identification of stakeholders, a description of stakeholder engagement, the trends and issues affecting the school, and the kinds of programs and services that a school implements to support student learning.

The purpose of the Executive Summary (ES) is to provide a school with an opportunity to describe in narrative form the strengths and challenges it encounters. By doing so, the public and members of the school community will have a more complete picture of how the school perceives itself and the process of self-reflection for continuous improvement. This summary is structured for the school to reflect on how it provides teaching and learning on a day to day basis.
Description of the School

Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?

South Salem Elementary School

South Salem Elementary School is an organization of concerned stakeholders who work together to build positive relationships among all stakeholders so that our children are empowered to achieve beyond expectations.

South Salem Elementary School is located in the western part of Newton County, Georgia approximately 30 miles east of Atlanta. South Salem opened its doors in 2008-2009 and was built to relieve overcrowding of the fast growing population on the west side of Newton County. The South Salem student body drew from a combination of students from Livingston, West Newton, Porterdale, Oak Hill, and new families moving to our district. Currently South Salem Elementary is in its 6th year of operation and houses 924 students in grades Pre K through 5.

The instructional program at South Salem Elementary School supports grade-level teams of teachers who collaborate to provide research-based learning experiences and activities for all students. The Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS) provide a consistent framework to prepare students for success in college and/or the 21st century workplace. These standards are more rigorous in nature, providing the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in college and/or careers. They also afford more consistent expectations across states for all students and are more relevant in content and application of knowledge through critical thinking, problem solving, modeling, and higher-order thinking skills. Textbooks are state approved and are adopted system-wide. State and locally approved common core standards provide the structure for instruction in Math, Reading, Writing, Spelling, Science, Social Studies and Health. Instructional assistance programs, including Special Education, Title I, and EIP help eligible students daily in targeted areas of curriculum study. All students in grades PK-5 participate in Media, Physical Education, Music, Computer, and Art Education throughout the week. Students in Grade 5 also participate in the CHAMPS program offered through the Newton County Sheriff's Department. The faculty of South Salem Elementary strives to provide educational excellence for all students and is dedicated to increasing student achievement through effective teaching by using research-based instructional strategies, building background knowledge of students, and the use of technology integration. The Gentleman's Club, Junior Beta Club, Art Club, Spartan Book Society, Chorus, the Spartan Scoop Morning Show, and the After School Enrichment Program are all extra-curricular activities that students can choose to participate in.

Demographic Data

South Salem Elementary School is made up of 924 students in grades PK-5. The student population is 55% African-American, 30% Caucasian, 10% Hispanic, and 5% Multi-Racial. The school is comprised of 47 homerooms with an average class size of 21 students. The school faculty includes 65 certified staff, 26 paraprofessionals, 1 school nurse, and 11 classified staff members. All South Salem Elementary School teachers and paraprofessionals are highly qualified with an average of 10 years' experience.

Community Involvement

South Salem Elementary School emphasizes the importance of community and parent involvement. PTO, School Council, and Partners in Education support activities for students and teachers. PTO sponsors school, family and community-based activities. School Council meets throughout the school year to keep community and business members up-to-date on testing data, budget, staffing, and community events. Our Partners in Education are supportive of South Salem students and staff through a variety of reward programs throughout the school year. We have a great number of both parent and community volunteers that help teachers and students. During the 2012-2013 school year, South Salem volunteers logged over 4,000 hours.
School's Purpose

Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.

Purpose: The purpose of South Salem Elementary School is to build positive relationships among all stakeholders so that our children are empowered to achieve beyond expectations.

Goals 2014: South Salem Elementary School's student achievement goals were created through analysis of summative student achievement data. All grade level teams participated in the examination of data and the creation of the goals. The faculty, staff, and stakeholders were given a draft copy of the School Improvement Plan to review to insure feedback in creating the goals.

Goal 1—96% of students in grades 3-5 will meet or exceed the Reading portion of the CRCT with a focus on Literacy Comprehension. 2013 Student performance - 3rd-5th grade 93% met or exceeded.

Goal 2—91% of students in grades 3-5 will meet or exceed the ELA portion of the CRCT with a focus on Writing. 2013 Student performance - 3rd-5th grade 88% met or exceeded.

Goal 3—81% of students in grades 3-5 will meet or exceed the Math portion of the CRCT with a focus on Numbers & Operations. 2013 Student performance - 3rd-5th grade 78% met or exceeded.

Goal 4—79% of students in grades 3-5 will meet or exceed the Science portion of the CRCT with a focus on Earth Science. 2013 Student performance - 3rd-5th grade 76% met or exceeded.

Goal 5—81% of students in grades 3-5 will meet or exceed the Social Studies portion of the CRCT with a focus on Government/Civics. 2013 Student performance - 3rd-5th grade 78% met or exceeded.

Programs Specific to South Salem Elementary

Response to Intervention: The Response to Intervention process is used to meet the needs of students who are not being successful in the school environment. SSE follows the structure set by NCSS which allows us a process to identify specific needs, implement interventions and progress monitor. The Response to Intervention teams include the school counselors, grade level teams, administrators, and parents.

Special Education Program: The Special Education Program follows the continuum of service outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). 13% of our students currently receive special education services. Common Core Curriculum standards are addressed in student goals and objectives in order to facilitate student progress toward grade level standards. South Salem offers additional support to students with its 4 special education teachers offering Co-teaching and Resource classes at every grade level. Also, our school has OT (Occupational Therapy) classes, PT (Physical Therapy) classes, and APE (Adaptive Physical Education) classes to meet the needs of our special education population. SSE is also home to 4 self-contained special education classrooms: 1 MOID (Moderate Intellectually Delayed), 1 SID/PID (Severe/Profound Intellectually Delayed), and 2 Special Needs Preschool classes.

Gifted Program: The Quest program is the designated gifted education program for the Newton County School System. Quest adheres to Department of Education rule 160-402-.38. 7% of our student population has been identified to be served in our Quest program. The resource room delivery model and the cluster group delivery model are used to provide services. The curriculum is structured around interdisciplinary units which are designed to assist students to reach their potential.

School-Wide Title I Program: With a 77% of our students qualifying for Free and Reduced lunch, SSE is eligible for School-Wide Title 1 funding. Through this added federal funding we are able to provide low achieving students additional support in the areas of Reading and Math through the use of additional personnel and instructional materials.

ESOL Program: The ESOL program follows Georgia Department of Education Rule 160-4-5.02 and is offered to all limited English proficient students.
students. 8% of the students at SSE are currently served in this program. Services are provided through pull-out and push-in instructional delivery models. Instruction targets development of English grammar, vocabulary, communication skills, and academic language development.

Counseling: The SSE counseling program is designed to address students' academic and emotional needs, personal safety, and career options. The counselors facilitate many programs throughout the school year including our Cookies with the Counselors, Red Ribbon Week, and Career Exploration studies.
Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

Describe the school’s notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.

State-of-the-Art Technology School: South Salem is equipped with state-of-the-art technology. The building is entirely wireless and houses two computer labs along with one STEM lab. Each classroom has an interactive whiteboard and computers linked to their own server. A stereo sound system with a wireless microphone worn by the teacher and a handheld microphone for student use are being phased into the building. Students and teachers also have access to iPods, iPads, Netbooks, laptop computers, ActiVotes, and the latest learner response systems, ActivExpressions. SSE embraces the idea of “Bring your own Technology to School” and is implementing practices and policies to guide teachers and students as the need arises.

Model PK Program: South Salem’s Pre-K classrooms have been identified by the state as a model program. The two classrooms were selected for a visit from First Lady Deal in 2013, as well as Commissioner Bobby Cagel to kick-off the Read Across Georgia initiative. The program also receives exemplary ratings each year on its yearly observation from the state consultant. Both classrooms have also served as model classrooms for teachers from around Newton County and the state.

GO Green Initiative: In 2010, South Salem Elementary launched its “Go Green” email project. Instead of sending newsletters, flyers, and other forms of paper communication that schools send home on a weekly basis with students, South Salem began sending its paper communication via email to parents. The “Go Green” project saves SSE about $2,000 in paper, ink and other copying costs, as well as being a huge time saver. 82% of South Salem's parents have email accounts, and the response from parents has been very positive. Parents appreciate the timely manner in which they receive information and the follow up reminders. Survey data reflects that our "Go Green" project is very popular with our stakeholders. The 18% of students who do not have email are still getting their weekly communication home in the Friday Folder. We have the ability to send out an email to the whole school, to particular grade levels, and to individual classes. The teachers at South Salem use email as their first line of communication with individual parents the majority of the time. The “Go Green” project seems to be a winning combination for all parties involved...parents, the school, the environment, and even the budget!

Top 5th Grade Writing Scores in the County: Over the last five years, South Salem has consistently performed 80% or higher on the passing rate for the Georgia 5th Grade State Writing Test. With these scores, SSE is in the top 3 ranking for the county each year.

Title 1 Distinguished School: From 2009 to 2011, SSE made AYP each year and was awarded the honor of being a Title 1 Distinguished School each year.

South Salem Elementary School Areas in Need of Improvement

South Salem Elementary School continues to strive to increase the number of students who are reading on or above grade level. Increased interventions using Accelerated Reader, small group Guided Reading instruction, monthly monitoring of Lexile level, technology integration, and the study of and beginning stages of implementation of The Daily 5 & Café (a literacy block structure designed to increase real time reading and writing for students) are strategies we have focused on this year.

The school does not currently provide an official mentoring program for students. We are currently working on a plan to implement a staff/student mentoring program.

South Salem Elementary School Challenges

The challenges that South Salem faces in the coming years include larger classes and fewer resources. Currently SSES is able to maintain manageable class sizes, but at the sacrifice of being able to offer EIP support for students. Our mobility rate continues to grow which certainly affects our students. Current research states that students who move during the elementary years (K-5), experience at least a 3 to 4
month growth disadvantage in math and reading when compared to their peers who do not move. Our mobility rate vacillates between 25% and 30%.
Additional Information

Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections.

All relevant information is previously stated.