

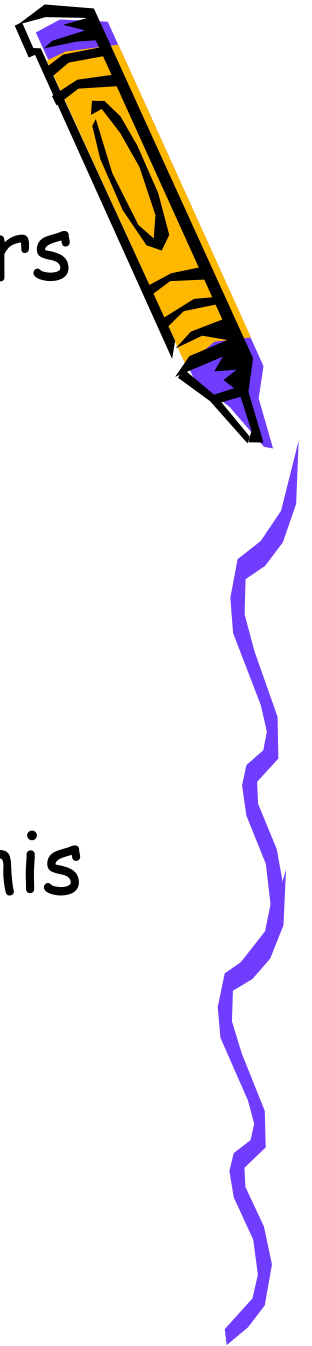


The Dr. Thomas J. Curran
Early Childhood Education
Center

School Improvement Plan
2010-2012

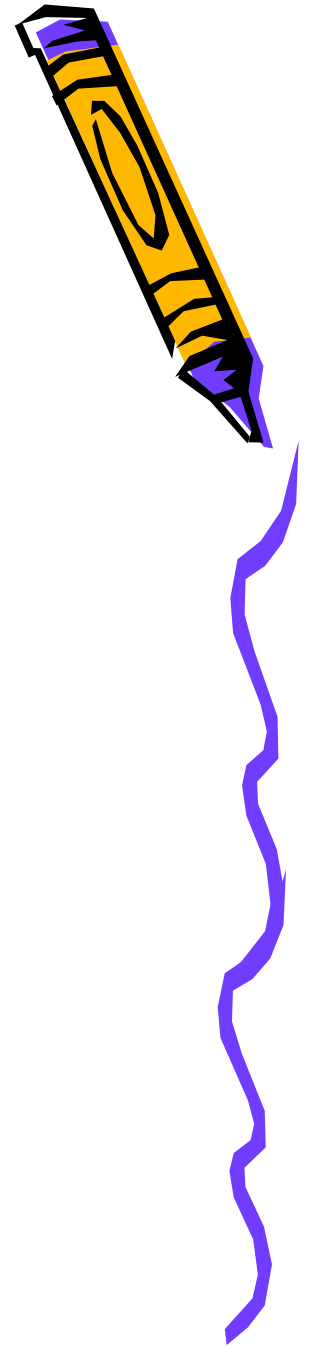


- A sincere thank you to the members of the School Council. Their time, commitment and dedication to the Curran Early Childhood Education Center has been sincerely appreciated. Many meaningful discussions took place to create this final document.

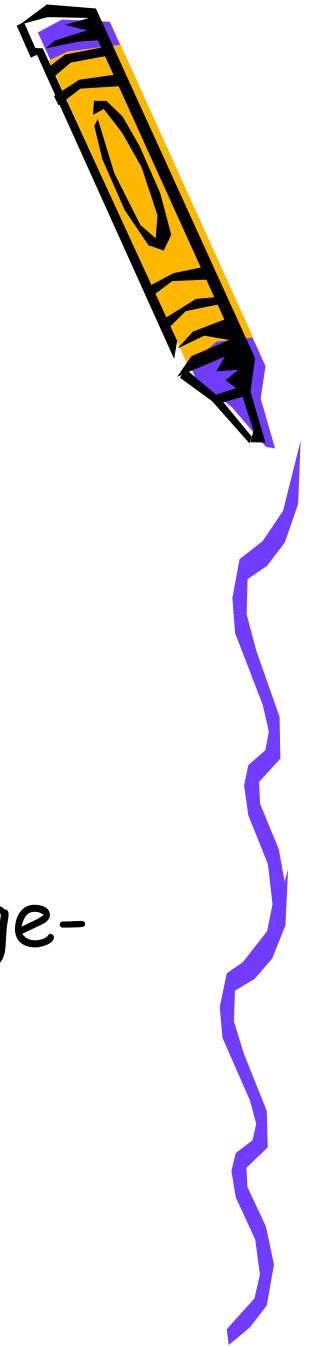


School Council Members 2009-2010

- Heidi Dineen, Principal, Co-Chair
- Julie Bayiates, Parent
- Kristin Chaplin, Parent
- Marie Lynch, Teacher
- Julie Lally, Teacher, Co-Chair



The Curran Early Childhood Education Center Philosophy



- The Curran Center strives to provide children with opportunities to learn, explore, discover, create, interact, communicate, and grow in a safe and nurturing environment. Curriculum is aligned with State Standards and is age-appropriate.

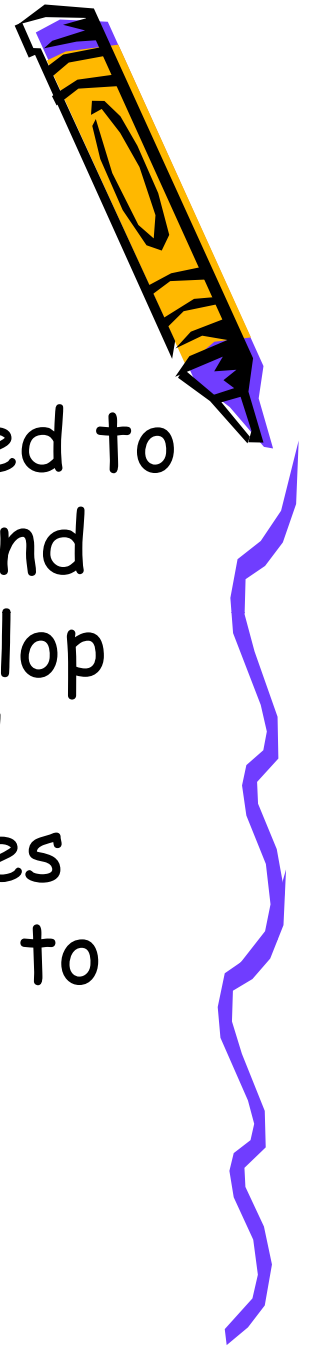
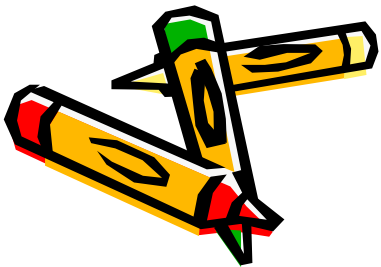


- The staff recognizes and respects the uniqueness and importance of each child, their developmental needs, cultural and family background and learning style. Through this attitude of respect, we hope to foster each child's feelings of self-worth and to encourage all children's respect for differences they will find in their world.



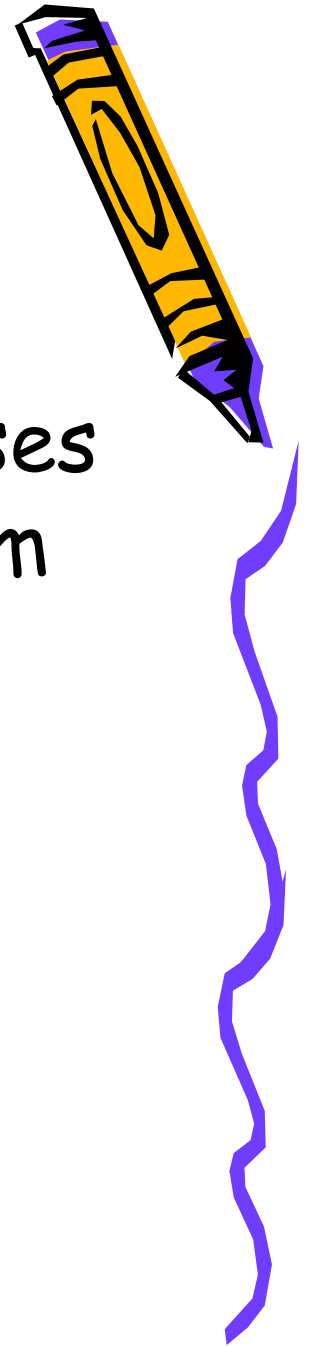
Our Preschool Program

- The preschool curriculum is designed to meet the needs of three year old and four year old children as they develop socially, emotionally, physically, and cognitively. Developmental activities provide children with opportunities to learn at their own pace.



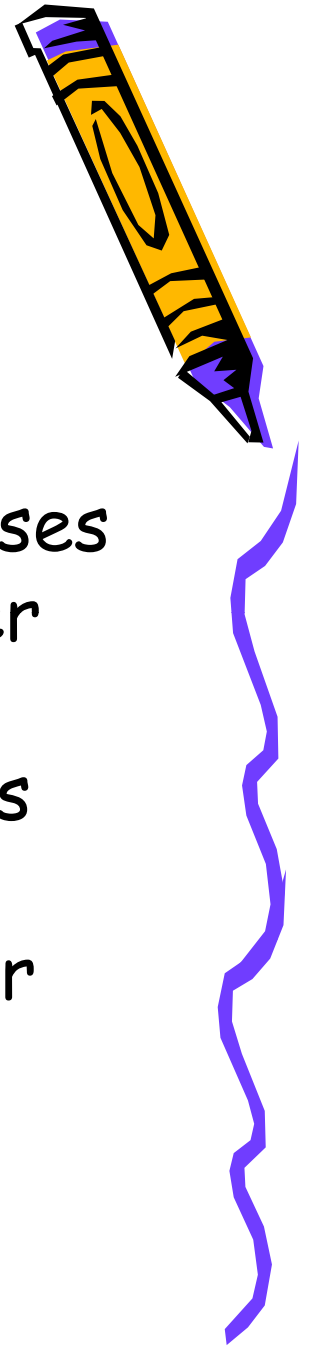
Our Kindergarten program

- The kindergarten curriculum focuses on state standards. The curriculum integrates reading/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies with art, music, physical education, and library.

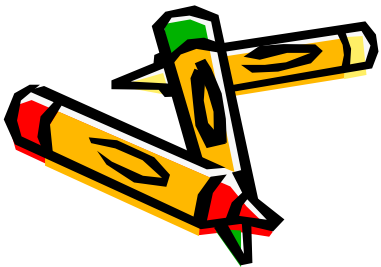


About the Curran Center...

- The Curran Early Childhood Education Center houses all the kindergarten classes for the Town of Dedham. We also offer preschool programs for three and four year old children. A child care center is on-site and is available to students enrolled at the Curran Center. All of our programs are integrated classes.



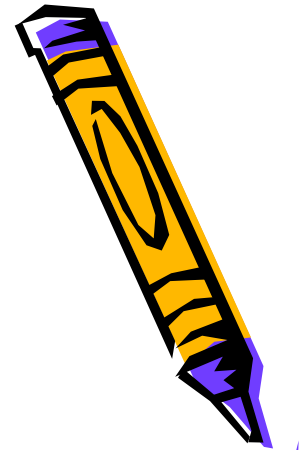
- Currently all of our classrooms have at least two adults in every room: a teacher and an instructional aide. Our Child Care Supervisor is a certified teacher. During the school day, the Child Care Center follows an academic model. Children participate in centers and "choice-time" based on thematic units. We have been fortunate to maintain this approach and offer appropriate teacher-student ratios.



- We have approximately 325 students enrolled in the school. Every November we begin the registration process for the following school year. The Curran Center is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. We are currently involved in the re-accreditation process.



Accredited by
the NAEYC
Academy
for Early
Childhood
Program
Accreditation



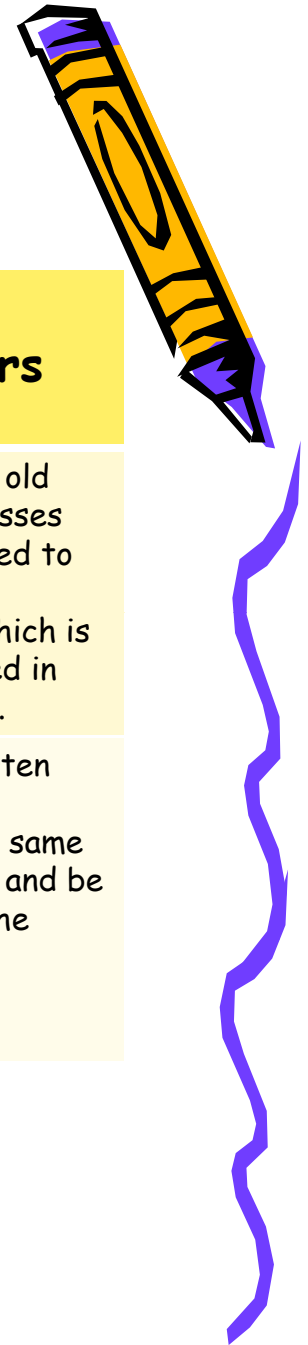
- NAEYC Accreditation represents the mark of quality in early childhood education. To achieve NAEYC Accreditation, early childhood education programs volunteer to be measured against the most robust and rigorous national standards on education, health and safety. Today, over 8,000 NAEYC accredited early childhood education programs serve families around the nation.
- NAEYC accredited programs invest in early childhood education because they believe in the benefits to children and families. Early childhood experiences—from birth to age 8—have an enormous impact on children's lifelong learning and positively contribute to their health and development. Early childhood education programs with the mark of quality benefit children with greater readiness for and success in school. (NAEYC)
(www.naeyc.org)



- The 67 staff members who educate the students at the Curran Center are committed to providing the highest quality of education to our youngest student population. The following plan addresses the needs of our school to honor the commitment of a quality education.



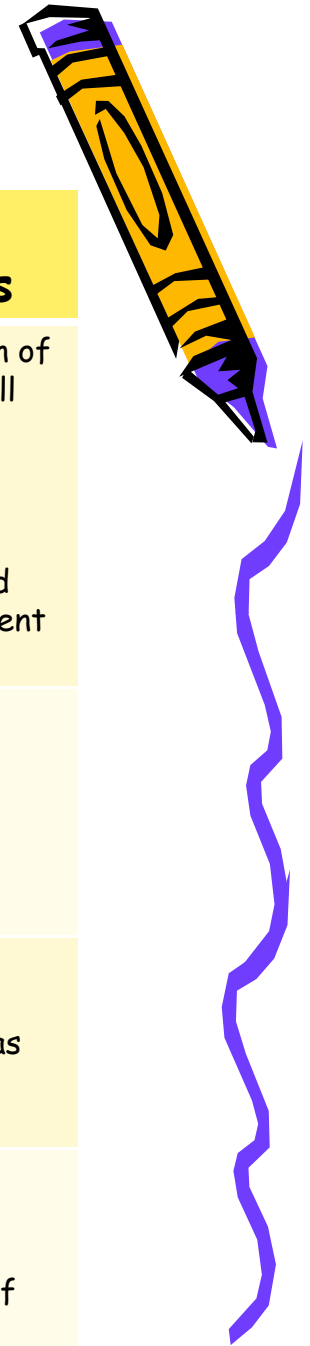
Goal #1: Academic Excellence: To continue assessing and improving academic achievement.



Action Steps	Persons Responsible	Timeline	Resources Needed	Success Indicators
Introduce Everyday Math in Preschool	Principal Preschool Teachers	September 2010	Purchase materials for the program	All four year old preschool classes will be exposed to the same vocabulary which is currently used in kindergarten.
Continued Everyday Math support for Kindergarten teachers	Principal K Teachers Title 1 teacher Special Education Teacher Aides Assistant Superintendent	September 2010- June 2012	Staff meetings Professional Development Support	All Kindergarten students will complete the same math lessons and be exposed to the same math vocabulary.



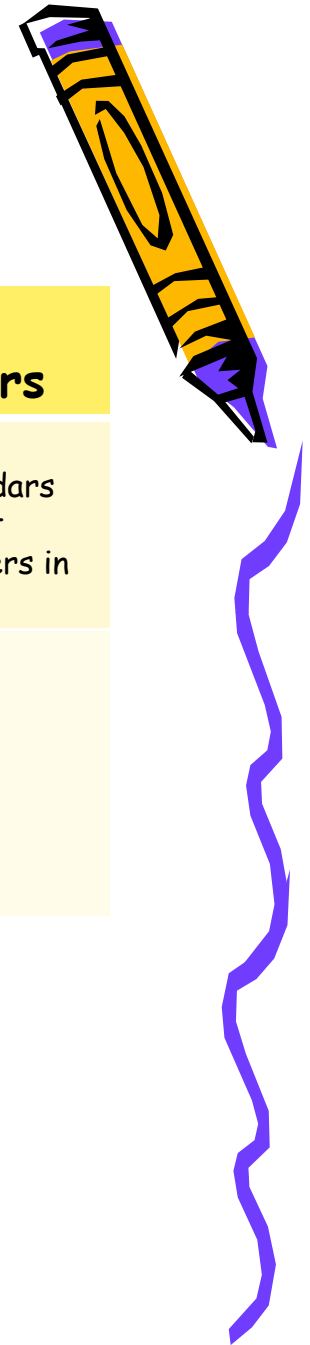
Goal # 1 Academic Excellence : continued



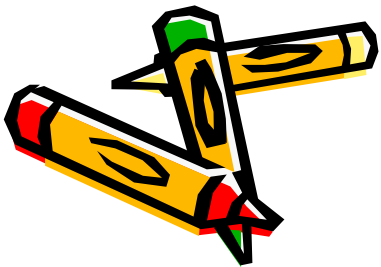
Action Steps	Persons Responsible	Timeline	Resources Needed	Success Indicators
Implement the Lucy Calkins Writing Program in Kindergarten	Principal K Teachers Aides Assistant Superintendent	September 2010	Scope & Sequence Staff meetings	Implementation of the program will be observed during walk-throughs and teacher observation and examining student work.
Increase the use of non-fiction text	Principal K Teachers Aides Assistant Superintendent	September 2010- June 2012	Purchasing books	As evident in classroom observations.
Review Science & Social Studies materials	Principal K Teachers Assistant Superintendent	September 2010- June 2012	State Standards Current materials	Teacher will review these curriculum areas to improve instruction.
Develop common units of study in preschool	Principal PK Staff	September 2010- June 2012	Guideline for the Preschool Learning Experience, State Standards	Preschool Teachers will develop four common units of study.



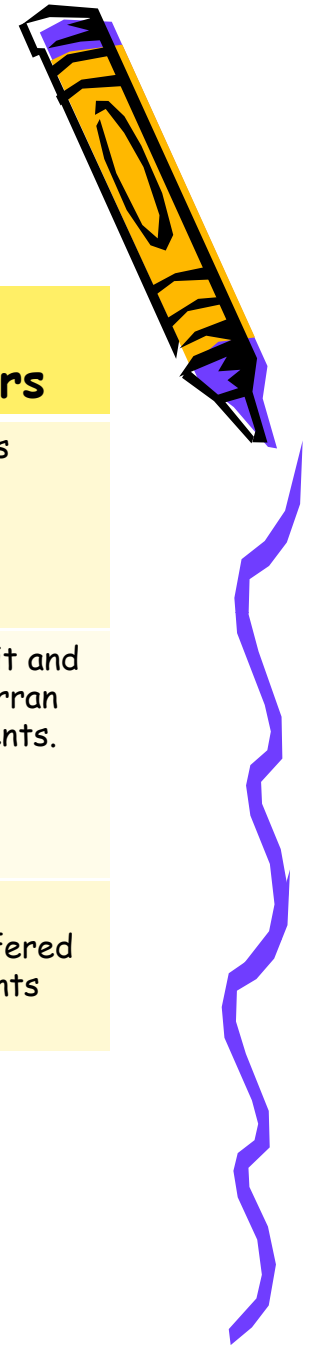
Goal # 1 Academic Excellence : continued



Action Steps	Persons Responsible	Timeline	Resources Needed	Success Indicators
Create a summer reading/math calendar for students entering first grade	Staff Principal	2010	Resources	Students will return calendars to their first grade teachers in September.
All parents receive the Responsive Classroom pamphlet <i>Yardsticks</i> at Open House in the fall	Teachers Principal	2010-2012	Yardstick Pamphlets	Open House attendance



**Goal # 2: Positive Learning Environment:
To create opportunities for students to develop meaningful connections to adults and peers.**



Action Steps	Persons Responsible	Timeline	Resources Needed	Success Indicators
Create opportunities for families to participate in school activities	Staff	2010-2012	Staff Meetings PTO School Council	Family events
Explore the possibility of having area 5 th graders visit the school and read with our students	Principals Teachers	2010-2012		Students visit and read with Curran Center students.
Enhance cultural enrichment opportunities within the school	Principal Teachers PTO School Council	2010-2012	PTO funding	A variety of programs offered to the students



Goal # 3: Respect:

To develop and enhance the social-emotional well being of every child in a safe and secure environment.

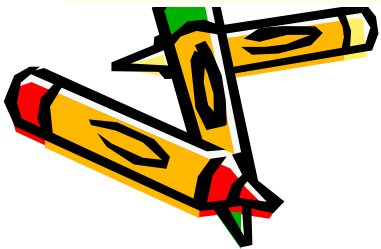
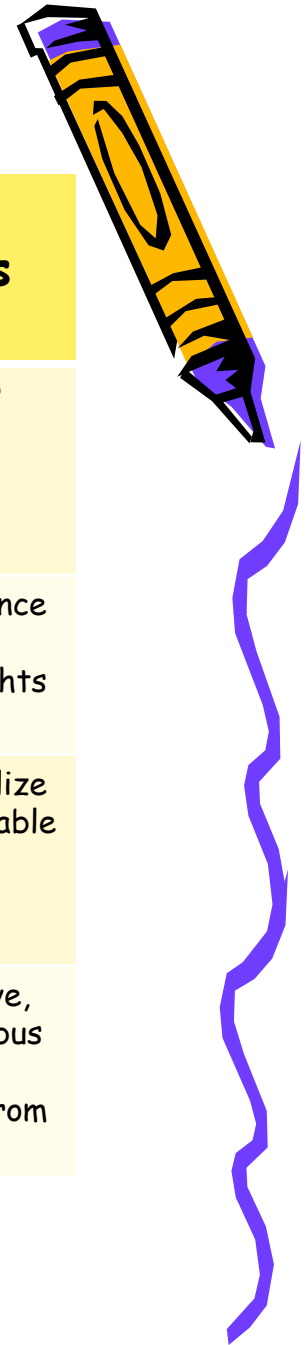


Action Steps	Persons Responsible	Timeline	Resources Needed	Success Indicators
Continued use of Responsive Classroom in Kindergarten classrooms	K Teachers Specialists Aides	September 2010- June 2012	Staff Meetings	Walk-throughs observations
Integration of social skills into kindergarten classes	Special Education Staff K Teachers Aides	September 2010- June 2012	Social skills program	Common vocabulary among students
Explore and purchase a social skills curriculum for preschool students	Preschool Staff Principal Adjustment Counselor	September 2010- June 2012	Funding for program	Purchased program

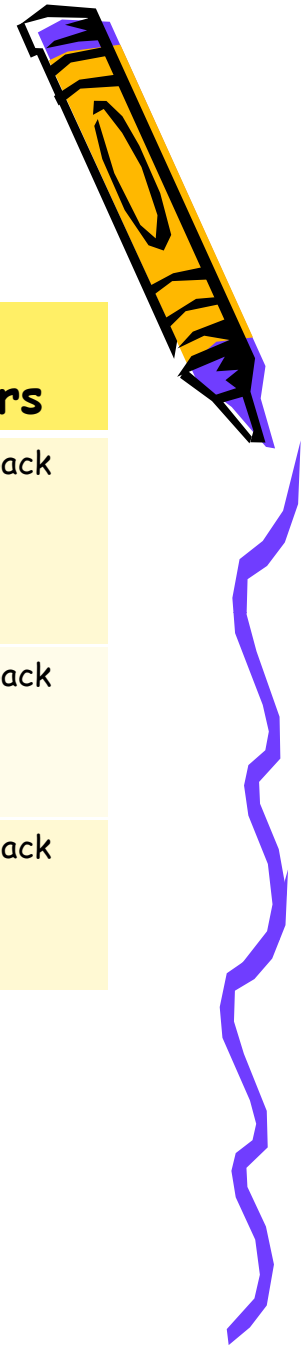


Goal # 3: Respect continued

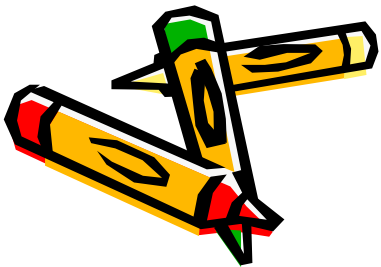
Action Steps	Persons Responsible	Timeline	Resources Needed	Success Indicators
Advocate to increase the hours of the School Adjustment Counselor	Principal School Council	September 2010	Funding	Increased hour for SAC
Offer a variety of parent workshops	Principal Staff PTO	September 2010- June 2012	Staff	Parent attendance at workshops/ information nights
Enhance the parent lending library as a resource for parents	Principal Parents Staff	September 2010- June 2012	Books	Parents will utilize the books available to them
Create Bus Safety rules for both students and parents to sign	Principal Parents Students Bus Company employees	September 2010	Commitment from parents and bus drivers	Parents will have, in writing, the bus rules and expectations from the first day



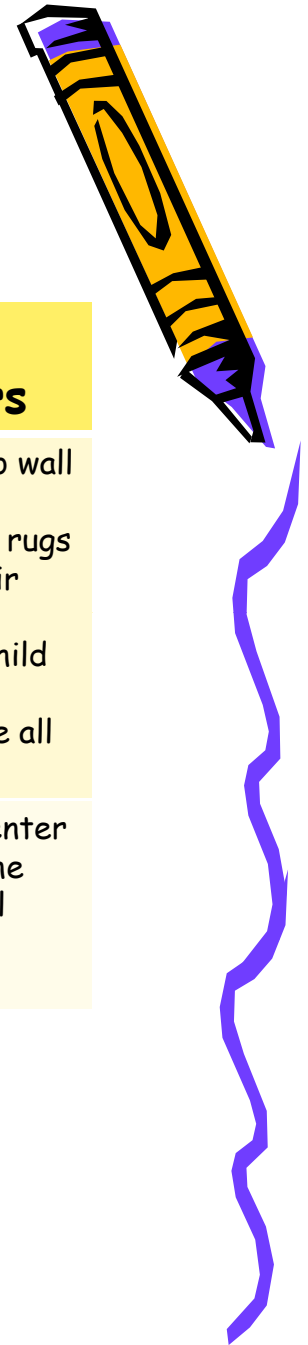
**Goal # 4: Support Open Communication:
To increase public awareness of school needs and accomplishments.**



Action Steps	Persons Responsible	Timeline	Resources Needed	Success Indicators
Use local cable and newspapers to advertise information nights/events	Principal	2010-2012	Local Cable Local Newspapers	Parent feedback
Continue to improve the Curran Center web page	Principal Teachers	2010-2012	Director of Technology	Parent feedback
Submit pictures of Curran Center events to local newspapers	Principal Staff	2010-2012	Local newspapers	Parent feedback



Goal # 4: Support Open Communication: continued



Action Steps	Persons Responsible	Timeline	Resources Needed	Success Indicators
Maintain the current facility	Custodian Principal Staff Administration	2010-2012	Funding	Remove wall to wall rugs Purchase area rugs Replace/ repair wooden doors (front door, child care, gym) Repair/replace all shades
Work with administration to plan and facilitate re-locating to the Dexter School	Administration Principal Community	2010-2015	Funding	The Curran Center will move to the Dexter School building.

