Chapter III: Critical Findings from Community Profile and Progress Report

After careful consideration of the collected data on student performance the stakeholders recognize that students perform at an above average level when compared to national norms on the ITBS scale. The program of study prepares students for the next level of education at each grade level, preschool through eighth grade. Informal alumni feedback suggests that students entering high school gain entry into the honors and AP classes at their school. For the past six years, faculty and staff have used the action plan to bring the school program into the 21st Century through professional development and technology upgrades to improve student learning.

Critical Learner Needs:
The administration, faculty, and staff of School have compiled the list of “next steps” to be taken with regard to the ongoing student initiatives. These steps will be the basis for the Action Plan presented in the 2013-2014 WASC report.

1. Curriculum and Instruction: Develop and implement training for teachers and staff on the Common Core Standards and strategies to ensure students are prepared for the next level of education at any school they attend.

   Student Learning Goals: Strive for accuracy. Create options, set goals, and self-monitor progress toward these goals. Utilize effective study skills, work independently, and assume responsibility for your own actions. Learn to think interdependently, work cooperatively, and contribute to the learning of others.

2. Support for Student Needs: Continue the implementation process and monitoring of the PBIS behavior plan. Integrate Habits of Mind into the school culture through research, training, and implementation.

   Student Learning Goals: Develop a personal relationship with God through Bible study, worship, fellowship, and prayer. Contribute time, energies, and talents to improve the quality of life in our school, community, nation, and world. Think and communicate with clarity and precision. Listen to others with understanding and empathy.

3. Technology: Continue to find and implement best technology practices in the classroom. Research and implement “Bring Your Own Technology” for third through eighth grades. Research the use of formal online assessment and other testing methods compared to ITBS. Expansion of technology into preschool classrooms.

   Student Learning Goals: Make use of advanced technologies carefully with discernment. Apply complex problem solving and critical thinking skills when interpreting information. Empower reason and make decisions based on information.
Important Questions:

The WASC Self-Study Report has given School the opportunity to reflect on the following questions.

1. How has the training and implementation of the California Standards for the Teaching Profession improved student learning across the grade levels?
2. To what extent has the implementation of Marzano's Best Practices and differentiation strategies including Kagan grouping tools and Thinking Maps improved student learning?
3. How has technology been improved in the classroom to benefit student learning?
4. How has PBIS implementation improved learning in the classroom?