



# School Improvement and School Turnaround: Local Accomplishments of the Metlife Foundation/NASSP Breakthrough Schools Program

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**My Name is Misti Taton and I am the  
Principal of a Failing School**



# Cashman MS Use of Data

- Transparency
- Killing the Myths and Building Dissatisfaction
- Evaluating Programs and Interventions
- Data comes in ALL Shapes and Forms
- Assessing Policies and Practices
- Examining the Outcomes
- Sustaining

# Transparency

- Disbanding the Gang of Six
- Collaborative Leadership
- School Improvement Takes the Entire School
- Vision, Mission, Goals
- Students
- Vertical Articulation/Alignment

“What is in the best interest of the student(s)...not most expedient for the adult”

## Killing the Myths/Building Dissatisfaction

- Our Hispanic girls are an attendance issue
- We don't have students reading above grade level
- We don't have accelerated students
- Our parents don't care
- Critical Stance
- Schedules

# Evaluating Programs and Interventions

- Why, Based on What
- Reading programs, reading programs
- Learning to Say “No, Thank You”
- CASA
- Cougar Camp

# Assessing Policies and Practices

- Schoolwide Grading Policy
- Consistency
- Parent Nights
- Accelerated Classes
- Rigorous, Grade-Level, Standards-Based Content for EVERY Student
- Accountability

# Data Can Be Both Good and Evil

- In this room....
- What is in a number?
  - 11.5
  - 347
  - 290
- Growth vs. Failing
- SPED

# Data Comes In All Shapes and Forms

- CRT, NRT (the “tests”)
- Anecdotal
- Common Assessments
- Informal
- One-Legged
- Observational
- Survey
- Qualitative/Quantitative

# Examining the Outcomes

- Successes

- ELA: Black, White 30+% reduction non-proficient  
LEP, FRL, Hispanic, Asian 10+% reduction non-proficient
- Math: Hispanic, Black, LEP, FRL 10+% reduction non-proficient  
IEP, White 20+% reduction non-proficient
- ADA: All Students met ADA
- Growth in Family Nights
- Implementation of Schoolwide Grading Policy
- Emphasis of differentiated instruction including single-gender classes, addition of accelerated classes, expansion of CC classes
- Expanded Community Outreach
- Acceptance of Students in Magnet Programs

# Examining the Outcomes

- Challenges
  - Plateau of Special Ed Students in ELA
  - IEP, LEP, Black Subgroups are Below Proficiency in Writing
  - Stagnation of Growth in Asian Subgroup
  - Defending Our Students' Success
  - Sustaining

# Sustaining

- Even Olympic Athletes Need Coaches
- Focusing on the Details
- Closing the Knowing and Doing Gap
- Accountability for All

My Name is Misti Taton and I am  
Highly Successful  
the Principal of a ~~Failing~~ School