

Employees' Budget Advisory Committee (EBAC) Recommendations for 2014 – 2015

Our recommendations for FY 2014-2015 will be to build upon our recommendations that were implemented FY2013-2014.

Two areas of focus:

- Health and Wellness
- Technology Systems and Processes.

Health and Wellness

A health and wellness coordinator was hired and she has implemented many wonderful new tools to assist our staff as they work towards improving their physical and mental health. These have met and in many cases exceeded our recommendations. What we are hoping for in the future is to continue with the things we are doing well and work to enhance other areas. We would like to see:

- Increased training on using the Healthy U site
- Improve the access to and use of Healthy U so it is more user friendly
- Apps that may be available to staff that will make the accessing of this information easier and more readily available (MyWellmark app)
- Verify that fixes to errors found on the Wellmark site have been corrected so new hires will not have the same issues when taking the initial assessment. (i.e. told many who have never smoked that they should quit smoking)
- Continue to add more offerings and consider offerings led from within schools; allow staff within buildings to assist with training of the Healthy U offerings
- Seek out more discounts through local businesses and national chains for our staff

Technology Systems

Our recommendations were to improve systems within our technology structure. Improvements were made to the “back office” this year. Improvements included such things as enhancing IFAS and adding the Nova Time system. We would like to see improvements to the “front office” or end users-the classrooms. A few of the ideas we discussed include:

- Purchasing software products with full implementation options so the classrooms are not limited on what can be done with those tools. I.e. infinite campus and eChalk.
- Do a better job of testing products prior to implementation to prevent issues from arising after teachers have the products in the classroom. An example of this is that in order to use infinite campus, eChalk, etc. we have to open several different web browsers. It is so time consuming and frustrating to have to open Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox and Chrome in order to start my day. Then only to have “gremlins” enter your computer because of the different options within each browser.

- Improve bandwidth usage throughout the district
- Improve processes/software for SPED so that they can increase their efficiency in completing IEP's. This will improve their mental health, quality of life, as well as, increase their efficiency allowing them more time to focus on lesson planning
- Secure products and processes so that we can fully offer online registration to our families
- Review technology systems and capabilities before purchasing eBooks and other online programs
- Future suggestions beyond next year would include offering an online degree; improved and additional online courses; go one-to-one in all our schools; use PD to train staff who are not as comfortable with current and/or future technology enhancements and products