

Freetown-Lakeville Regional School District

**Apponequet Regional High School
School Improvement Plan
2009-2010**

DRAFT

Gary P. Lincoln
Principal

Apponequet Regional High School
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS
2009-2010

Name	Position
Analisa Cook	Student
Christopher Costa	Assistant Principal
Kahlan Dessert	Teacher
Donna Dobrowsky	Teacher
Gary Lincoln	Principal
Alex Magalhaes	Parent
David Milam	Parent
Lauren Moynihan	Student
Charles Moszczenski	Teacher
Amanda Nardi	Teacher
Marie Nolan	Parent

Approved by School Council on May 18, 2009
Endorsed by the ARHS Leadership Team on
Endorsed by the Curriculum and Goal-Setting Committee on

APPONEQUET REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

100 HOWLAND ROAD, LAKEVILLE, MA 02347

(508)947-2660 FAX (508)946-2350

SCHOOL PROFILE 2008 - 2009

Superintendent:
Dr. Stephen J. Furtado

A Comprehensive Four Year Public High School

Director of Guidance
Robert J. McKay

Principal:
Gary P. Lincoln

Accredited by the New England Association of
Schools and Colleges and the
Massachusetts Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education

Counselors:
Shawwna Fontaine
Mark Gorman
Paula Money

SCHOOL CODE: 221107

Assistant Principal:
Christopher J. Costa

Adjustment Counselors:
Gregory Lee
Aimee Lombard

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Apponequet Regional High School has been serving the educational needs of the towns of Freetown and Lakeville since 1959. The towns have a combined population of over 20,000 and are situated in Southeastern Massachusetts near the cities of Taunton, New Bedford, and Fall River.

We are a public high school with an enrollment of approximately 875 students and a professional staff of 87. There are 221 students in the senior class. Approximately 90-95% of these students will continue on to higher education. The Class of 2008 sent 60% of its members to four-year colleges and 29% to two-year colleges and technology schools.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The majority of students at Apponequet further develop their individuality by participating in extra-curricular activities. Students may choose from opportunities in student government, drama, band, chorus, journalism, creative writing, peer support groups, a competitive math team, and over 19 varsity and junior varsity athletic teams.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

110 credits are required for graduation.
Each year-long course is worth 5 credits.

English	4 years
Social Studies	3 years
Mathematics	3 years
Science	3 years
Computer	1 semester
Health	1 semester
Technical Communications	1 quarter
Physical Education	4 quarters

Electives include Foreign Languages, Business/Technology, Art, Music, Industrial Technology, Pre-Engineering & Consumer Science.

Apponequet Regional High School offers Advanced Placement courses in English Literature and Composition, European History, United States History, Calculus, Biology, Physics and Studio Art.

RANK

All students receive a weighted class rank. Rank is determined by averaging point values for each course that is leveled. All major subjects are included. Calculations are based on six semesters of course work. The final class rank is recomputed after the 3rd quarter of the senior year. It is this computation that determines the ultimate standing of seniors within their class.

COURSE LEVELS

Levels differ in coverage and intensity to meet the ability, achievement and needs of the student. Leveled courses include English, Social Studies, Science, Math, Foreign Language, and AP Art. All other courses are unleveled. Levels include:

*Advanced Placement
Honors
College Preparation Level I
College Preparation Level II*

MARKING SYSTEMS AND GRADE VALUES

GRADE	MARK	AP	HONORS	COL.PREP LEVEL I	COL.PREP LEVEL II
A+	97-99	5.3	4.8	4.3	3.8
A	93-96	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.5
A-	90-92	4.7	4.2	3.7	3.2
B+	87-89	4.3	3.8	3.3	2.8
B	83-86	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5
B-	80-82	3.7	3.2	2.7	2.2
C+	77-79	3.3	2.8	2.3	1.8
C	73-76	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5
C-	70-72	2.7	2.2	1.7	1.2
D	65-69	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5
F	0-64	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

SAT RESULTS – CLASS OF 2008

79% of the graduating class took SAT's.

SAT Mean Scores for the graduating class:

Critical Reading 516 Math 518 Writing 518

ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST RESULTS

EXAM	5	4	3	2	1	TOTAL
English Lit	5	3	2	1	-	11
Calculus	6	6	1	-	-	13
Biology	23	17	10	5	3	58
Euro. History	2	5	12	5	8	31
U.S. History	7	4	5	3	2	21
Studio Art	-	-	3	3	-	6
Chemistry	-	-	-	1	-	1
Physics	1	-	-	-	-	1

INTERPRETATION OF COURSES

DEPT.	AP	HONORS	COLLEGE LEVEL I	COLLEGE LEVEL II	UNLEVELED
ENG LISH	English	English 9 English 10 English 11 English 12	English 9 English 10 English 11 English 12	English 9 English 10 English 11 English 12	Intro to Drama Media Production Journalism Public Speaking
	SOCIAL STUDIES	Mod Eur.Hist. U.S.Hist.	W. History II U.S. History I, II	W. History II U.S. History I, II	Economics Cultures in Conflict Psychology Sociology Political Science Criminal Law
FOREIGN LANGUAGE		French II, III, IV, V Spanish II, III, IV, V	French I, II, III, IV Spanish I, II, III, IV		
MATH	Calculus	Geometry Algebra II Precalculus Calculus	Algebra I Geometry Algebra II Precalculus Trigonometry Statistics	Alg. I-Part 1 Alg. I-Part 2 Geometry Algebra II	Personal Finance MCAS Math Prep
SCI ENCE	Biology Physics	Earth Science Biology I Chemistry I Physics I Environ. Research	Earth Science Biology I Chemistry I Physics I Environ. Science Anat & Phys	Biology Inv. Earth Sci. Appl. Chem Appl. Physics	Pre-Eng. Tech
	BUSINESS				All Courses
INDUSTRIAL TECH. & PRE-ENGINEERING					All Courses
CONSUMER SCIENCE					All Courses
ART	Studio Art				Art I,II,III,IV Photography
HEALTH & PHYS. ED.					Health PE
MUSIC					All Courses

MISSION STATEMENT

Apponequet Regional High School provides a diverse learning environment that encourages academic, creative, social, and athletic development in an atmosphere of mutual respect and courtesy. In partnership with students, parents, and our communities, we are dedicated to providing a safe, supportive, and academically stimulating environment that strives to inspire students to become life-long learners, as well as conscientious, productive and responsible members of society.

**FREETOWN-LAKEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS
2006-2009**

CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION

1. *Create a K-12 curriculum that focuses on meeting the needs of all learners.*
2. *Implement a consistent curriculum that begins with the alignment of the State frameworks and expands beyond into diverse real life applications.*

ASSESSMENT

1. *Students will demonstrate mastery of the state learning standards through their performance on standardized assessments.*
2. *A broad range of standards based assessment methods will be incorporated into everyday practice.*
3. *Grade reporting at all levels will accurately reflect student achievement with regard to the state learning standards.*

FINANCES

1. *Design and implement a three year budget plan that directly correlates to the strategic plan and supports the district's mission.*
2. *Secure adequate funding to support targeted programs that focus on student achievement.*
3. *Implement an annual budget process that will foster and improve communication to facilitate commitment of the towns for a sufficient annual budget.*

HUMAN RESOURCES

1. *Ensure that students are supported academically, emotionally, socially, athletically and artistically by ensuring that we have enough classroom teachers, paraprofessionals and specialists to maintain an optimum class size for relevant grade levels.*
2. *Hire and retain administrators and highly qualified teachers who are educational leaders, as well as quality support staff.*
3. *Maintain adequate support service personnel to assist teachers and maintain a clean, healthy, active learning environment for all.*

FACILITIES

1. *To maintain a high operating standard for the district's facilities by monitoring building maintenance.*
2. *To review and update existing emergency plans by coordinating efforts with public safety officials.*

TECHNOLOGY

1. *To revise and implement the district wide technology plan to support curriculum, instruction and assessment.*
2. *To meet the needs of the users of the Freetown and Lakeville School District.*
3. *To meet the needs of the communities of Freetown and Lakeville.*

CLIMATE/CULTURE

1. *Organize a committee to examine the feasibility of establishing three geographic elementary school districts that would address the financial needs of the communities while equitably meeting the educational needs of all students.*
2. *Identify daily practices, curriculum development, fiscal resources and personnel resources that are essential prerequisites to ensure we meet the spirit and intent of the following policies and guidelines: Wellness, Drugs, Alcohol, Bullying, Harassment, Tolerance and Discipline.*

COMMUNICATION

1. *Improve communications with both towns/town leaders and parents through individual school monthly newsletters/calendars, student generated newspapers and expanded use of One Call Now.*
2. *Improve efforts to celebrate our schools and our students' successes by enlisting a parent volunteer for each school to seek out newsworthy information from staff and/or administration and contact the appropriate local media.*

Attainment of Goals 2008-2009

The School Improvement Plan for 2008-2009 identified five goals for the year. These goals were developed using the Freetown-Lakeville Public School Strategic Plan as a guide. The goals are as follows:

1. Curriculum/Instruction – Implement a consistent curriculum that begins with the alignment of the state frameworks and expands beyond into diverse real life applications.
2. Assessment – Students will demonstrate mastery of the state learning standards through their performance on standardized assessments. A broad range of standards based assessment methods will be incorporated into everyday practice.
3. Finances – Secure adequate funding to support targeted programs that focus on student achievement.
4. Technology – To meet the needs of the users of the Freetown and Lakeville School district.
5. Climate/Culture – Identify daily practices, curriculum development, fiscal resources and personal resources that are essential prerequisites to ensure we meet the spirit and intent of the following policies and guidelines: Wellness, Drugs, Alcohol, Bullying, Tolerance and Discipline.

Goal #1 – Curriculum/Instruction

The NEASC Mission Standard Committee completed its revision of the Mission Statement *and Academic Expectations* last spring. It was approved by the faculty, School Council and Freetown-Lakeville Regional School Committee in June. The early approval allowed the new Mission Statement to be included in all official documents for the 2008-2009 school year, including the Student Handbook. The Social and Civic Expectations were approved this fall by the same groups.

The format of the ARHS Educational Proficiency Plans was finalized in October. The format is a version of the DESE suggested template. Revisions were provided by the guidance department and the Leadership Team. An EPP is needed for each student who scored in the “Needs Improvement” category of the ELA or Math MCAS tests. Parents of each student were notified of the plan. The EPP will document how each student is “progressing toward proficiency” in either ELA or Math. The first MCAS EPP tests were administered January 12-16, 2009. Six students on the Math EPP test and two students on the ELA EPP test scored proficient. Their EPP is complete.

Curriculum guides with maps were written during the school year 2007-2008. Each course guide was written by one person with little time to collaborate with other members of their department. This year teachers are piloting the guides for the courses they teach. Teachers are making notes on the guides as they teach each unit. Each month the first 10-15 minutes of the most department meetings are devoted to editing the guides with members of the department. Updated versions of the guides were be completed May 20, 2009 during the time originally designated for the monthly faculty meeting.

The curriculum guide for the new A.P. Physics course was completed by Physics teacher, Mrs. Julie Mills, has received approval from the College Board.

Results from MCAS, SAT and classroom assessments are used to make curriculum modifications.

Goal #2 – Assessment

The school-wide “Academic Expectations” were approved by the faculty, School Council and Freetown-Lakeville Regional School Committee in June for implementation for the 2008-2009 school year. The Social and Civic Expectations were presented to the faculty and School Council in the November 2008. Marie Nolan of the School Council requested that “respect” be added to expectation #3 so that it reads “Our students will treat all members of the school community and society with respect, tolerance and acceptance.” The updated draft was approved by the faculty and school committee at their December meetings.

The Instruction and Assessment Committee has the responsibility for rewriting the rubrics for the school-wide Academic Expectations. For the past four years the Academic Expectations have been assessed as part of the second and fourth quarter report cards. The Instruction and Assessment Committee, formally the Curriculum Committee, reviewed rubric formats from several schools at its November meeting. The committee drafted the writing rubric at its December meeting, the reading and listening rubrics during its January meeting, the speaking rubric during its February meeting, the problem solving rubric at its March meeting and the technology rubric at its April meeting. The rubrics will be presented at the June faculty meeting.

Math and ELA MCAS results reported this fall for our current grade 11 students were impressive. Apponequet made AYP in all categories. In math, 44% of our students scored in the Advanced level, 33% in the Proficient level, 17% in the Needs Improvement level and 5% in the Failing category. In ELA, 34% scored Advanced, 52% Proficient, 12% Needs Improvement and 1% Failing.

Biology MCAS results for last year’s grade students were significantly above state averages. Range of performance levels were: 11% Advanced, 50% Proficient, 35% Needs Improvement and 3% Failing. Passing one Science MCAS is a requirement for graduation but currently there is no EPP or AYP requirement for science.

MCAS Retests are taken by students in grades 11 or 12 who have not passed the tests, new students who did not complete the MCAS in their previous school and exchange students who want to receive an Apponequet diploma. Retests were administered in November and March. In November, fourteen of the twenty-five students who took the math retest passed it and nine of the eleven students who took the ELA retest passed it. In March four of the eight students passed the math. The two students who had not passed the ELA are no longer students at Apponequet. Nine of the eleven students who took the February MCAS Biology test passed.

The United States History tryout MCAS was cancelled this year by the state due to budget constraints.

Results from MCAS, SAT and classroom assessments are the basis on which curriculum modifications are made.

Goal #3 – Finances

There has been little impact of enrollment on programming this school year. Our enrollment has actually decreased by approximately 30 students. Enrollment numbers are provided to the school committee each month and are included in the Principal’s Monthly report which is posted on the Apponequet website.

The implementation of user fees has had little effect on participation. During the fall season 290 students competed compared to 292 students last year. All teams performed very

well, qualifying for state tournaments. During the winter season, 149 students competed compared to 164 last year. The decrease is mainly due to a decrease in the number of students participating in winter track. Spring participation totaled 237 athletes. This represents an increase over last spring. This is partly due to the addition of lacrosse as a new spring sport (47 athletes). The 654 participants is exactly the same number as the previous year.

In order to fund the approved athletic budget, an additional \$20,000 needed to be raised over and above the school budget and user fees. The Athletic Booster's Club has committed \$12,000 to offset this remaining balance. The Sponsor-An-Athlete Campaign raised an additional \$2000.

Through the fall and winter seasons, thirteen (13) students have requested, and have been granted, waivers of their user fee. To offset the \$2500 loss of revenue, a "Sponsor-An-Athlete" campaign was started in January 2009. Letters were sent to approximately 100 local businesses. The campaign raised \$2000.

FY09 budgets were frozen in December in anticipation of cuts in the Chapter 70 money at the state level. Any cuts made in funding in the middle of the year would need to be doubled to reflect the corresponding full fiscal year cut.

The FY10 budget process began in October with Leadership Team meetings. School budgets were presented to the superintendent's office in December. The high school budget showed an increase of \$573,000. A significant portion of the increase reflects the Special Education Coordinator's position being moved from the district's budget to the high school budget, plus the addition of another special education teacher and new one-on-one aide. The library aide position, cut last year, was not restored. All salaries were adjusted to reflect step and level changes. The teacher contract negotiations are currently being held. At the superintendent's direction, \$311,000 was cut from the original request, leaving an increase of \$262,000.

Goal #4 – Technology

Our technical support team of Craig Machamer and Jim Rollins researched a new technology for student computers. They recommended to the superintendent a nComputing device that allows four student computer to work from one teacher hard drive. The Freetown-Lakeville Region had a Computer Designated Account which the superintendent devoted to the purchase of 99 students systems, including new monitors, for approximately \$71000.

We continue to utilize OneCallNow as our automated voice system to contact parents. In addition to "no school" announcements and notification of the distribution of report cards, this year we made use of the automated voice system to keep parents posted on developments during a Code Red incident.

Goal #5 – Climate/Culture

Rachel's Challenge, a program named after Rachel Scott who was the first victim at Columbine High School, was brought back to the middle and high school for the second year on December 8, 2008. This year we again offered the first year program to grades 7 and 9. This year we offered the second year of their program, called "Rachel's legacy" to grades 8 and 10. SHAPE, under the direction of advisors Michelle Bowles and Laura Barnicoat, has adopted the principles of Rachel's Challenge into their peer education program.

Student extra-curricular activities continue to support the programs identified in the goal. Student Council, who proposed the new smoking policy that is in effect this year, is raising the

funds to purchased special smoke detectors for the bathrooms. Diversity Coalition/GSA as part of the “No Name Calling” Week is sponsoring Slipper Day to give name calling the slip and Hat Day to put a cap on name calling.

Middleboro Youth Advocates sponsored a Prom Fair on March 22, 2009. We posted their flyers and read announcements for several days encouraging our students to attend. MYA is a federally supported town program that provides teenagers with alternatives to drug and alcohol use.

Our PTO has organized an After Prom Celebration with the goal of keeping our students save after the prom. Sponsors are being sought to make donations. Fundraising is being done in an attempt to make the After Prom Celebration free to all students. Hypnotist Frank Santos performed on March 10th to a small but enthusiastic crowd. The committee also sponsored a Bunco Tournament at the Lakeville Lions on April 3rd and a raffle for a week stay at a cottage in Chatham. The event was a great success with over forty (40) students attending.

**ACTION PLAN
FOR
2009-2010 GOALS**

GOAL #1 Strategic Plan: Curriculum/Instruction

DRAFT

Specific Objectives – Implement a consistent curriculum that begins with the alignment of the state frameworks and expands beyond into diverse real life applications.

Activity and/or Professional Development	Person(s) Responsible	Resource(s) and/or Funding	Timeline	Additional Information
“Review and Revise” the Mission Statement to reflect the current ARHS philosophy on curriculum and instruction.	NEASC Mission Standard Committee	No Funding	Complete by Oct	Request approval by School Committee for Nov meeting
Create study groups or tutoring program.	Guidance counselors Administrators Advisors of NHS, SHAPE etc	No Funding	Implement beginning Nov 1st	Use bulletin board outside guidance to advertise sessions. Study groups will start Wed in cafe and possibly expand to Thurs
“Review and Revise” the curriculum guides and maps written during the 2007-2008 school year and edited during the 2008-2009 school year.	All Departments	No Funding	Complete by May	To be completed during In-Service days

GOAL #2 Strategic Plan: Assessment

DRAFT

Specific Objectives – A broad range of standards based assessment methods will be incorporated into everyday practice.

Activity and/or Professional Development	Person(s) Responsible	Resource(s) and/or Funding	Timeline	Additional Information
“Review and Revise” the school-wide learning expectations approved June 08.	NEASC Mission Standard Committee ARHS Faculty Appropriate boards/councils	No Funding	Complete by Jan 2009	To be completed during In-Service Days
“Review and Revise” rubrics to assess the school-wide learning expectations edited during the school year 2008-2009.	NEASC committees Departments Instruction and Assessment Committee	No Funding	Complete by May 2010	To be completed during In-Service Days and I & A Committee monthly meetings
Gather the samples of assessment using the NEASC Cover Sheet	NEASC Assessment Standard Committee ARHS Faculty	No Funding	Complete by May 2010	

GOAL #3 Strategic Plan: Human Resources

DRAFT

Specific Objectives

1. Secure adequate funding to support targeted programs that focus on student achievement. (adapted from Finances)
2. Ensure that students are supported academically, emotionally, socially, athletically and artistically by ensuring that we have enough classroom teachers, paraprofessionals and specialists to maintain an optimum class size for relevant grade levels.

Activity and/or Professional Development	Person(s) Responsible	Resource(s) and/or Funding	Timeline	Additional Information
Advocate for additional Assistant Principal	Administrators School Council	Budget FY11	Monthly School Committee meetings	For school year, 2010-2011
Advocate for the return of lost personnel and programs	Administrators School Council	Budget FY11	Throughout the budget process	Library aid Extended library hours Elimination of user fees
Research alternate funding sources to create a designated account to support student activities	Administrators School Council	Fundraising	Ongoing	To allow all students to participate, establish a fund to assist in covering the costs.
Continue responsible preparation and presentation of ARHS budget	Administrators Parent Support Groups	No Funding	First draft in Oct 2009	
Encourage attendance at local town boards and town meetings	Administrators Leadership Team	No Funding	Ongoing	
Track impact of user fees on participation in athletics for second year of fees.	Administrators Athletic Director Appendix C advisors	No Funding		Compare at the beginning of each sports season, and through end-of-the-year reports

GOAL #4 Strategic Plan: Facilities

DRAFT

Specific Objectives – Maintain a high operating standard for the district’s facilities by monitoring building maintenance.

Activity and/or Professional Development	Person(s) Responsible	Resource(s) and/or Funding	Timeline	Additional Information
Implement the fourth year of the 5-year plan for purchasing electronic equipment (Adapt if new plan is approved.)	Administrators IT people	Budget FY10	Installed for September 2009	65 students computers
End smoking in the bathrooms.	Everyone	Parking Fees	Ongoing	
Open additional bathrooms for student use, especially during passing time.	Administrators Parent Volunteers		January 2010	Investigate ways to increase the number of monitors. Coordinate parents with other activities.
Continue responsible preparation and presentation of budget items for an aging school building	Administrators Facilities manager	Every Budget	Throughout the budget process	

GOAL #5 Strategic Plan: Communication

DRAFT

Specific Objectives – Improve efforts to celebrate our schools and our students’ successes by enlisting a parent volunteer for each school to seek out newsworthy information from staff and/or administration and contact the appropriate local media.

Activity and/or Professional Development	Person(s) Responsible	Resource(s) and/or Funding	Timeline	Additional Information
Organize activities to celebrate Apponequet’s 50 th Jubilee.	Administrators StuCo Alumni Jubilee committee	Fundraising	Ongoing	“Everything in gold” - StuCo
Coordinate school publicity programs with local media outlets	Administration Journalism Media Website StuCo Publicity Chair	No funding	Ongoing	
Form Alumni Association	Website club Alumni Website Reunion committees	No funding	Ongoing	Post membership form on ARHS website Free membership Create database of email addresses Hold a Thanksgiving activity Induct new alumni at graduation