

Increasing Access and Opportunity for African American Students

LeVar Ammons & Dana Whittaker: Willowbrook High School

Broderick Booth: Homewood-Flossmoor High School

Farrah Ellison-Moore: Marian Catholic High School

Moderator: Cathy Bendicsen, Director of Guidance, Willowbrook High School

Today's Outcomes

- Review the achievement gap that exist amongst African American students
(post secondary preparation, enrollment and graduation)
- Provide information on targeted programs and interventions to decrease the achievement gap
- Discuss opportunities for collaboration

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Who is in the room today?

What brought you to this session?

African American Students pursuing higher education

- 21% IL Black Students meeting ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark *-Ed Trust*
- 13% IL Black Students meeting ACT Math College Readiness Benchmarks *-Ed Trust*

National Center of Education Statistics:

- 36% 18-24 year olds enrolled at 2/4 year institution
- 13% Associate Degrees Conferred*
- 10.3% Bachelors Degrees*
- 12.5% Masters Degrees*
- 7.4% Doctorate*

* -2009-2010

Willowbrook High School

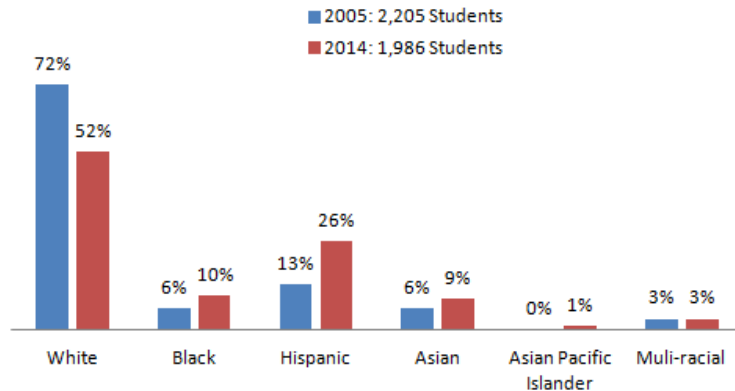
LeVar Ammons, MA; Professional School Counselor

Dana Whittaker, MA; Community Outreach School Counselor

Class of 2014: 93.7% College Attendance
 61.6%: 4 year college 29.2%: 2 year college

Located 18 miles from Chicago, IL
 DuPage County
 Serves 5 communities

Willowbrook High School Enrollment



Low Income	
2005	2014
17%	49%

Willowbrook High School: African American Student Demographic Shifts

2005-2006 School Year

- 16 AP Courses Offered:
 - *<1% African American Student enrollment in AP Courses*
- No College Visits
- Minimal Parent Programs
- No African American Groups and minimal representation in school wide parent programs
- 42% African American students suspended
- No behavior interventions
- Support Groups offered ONLY to students with an IEP

Willowbrook High School: African American Student Demographic Shifts

2013-2014 School Year

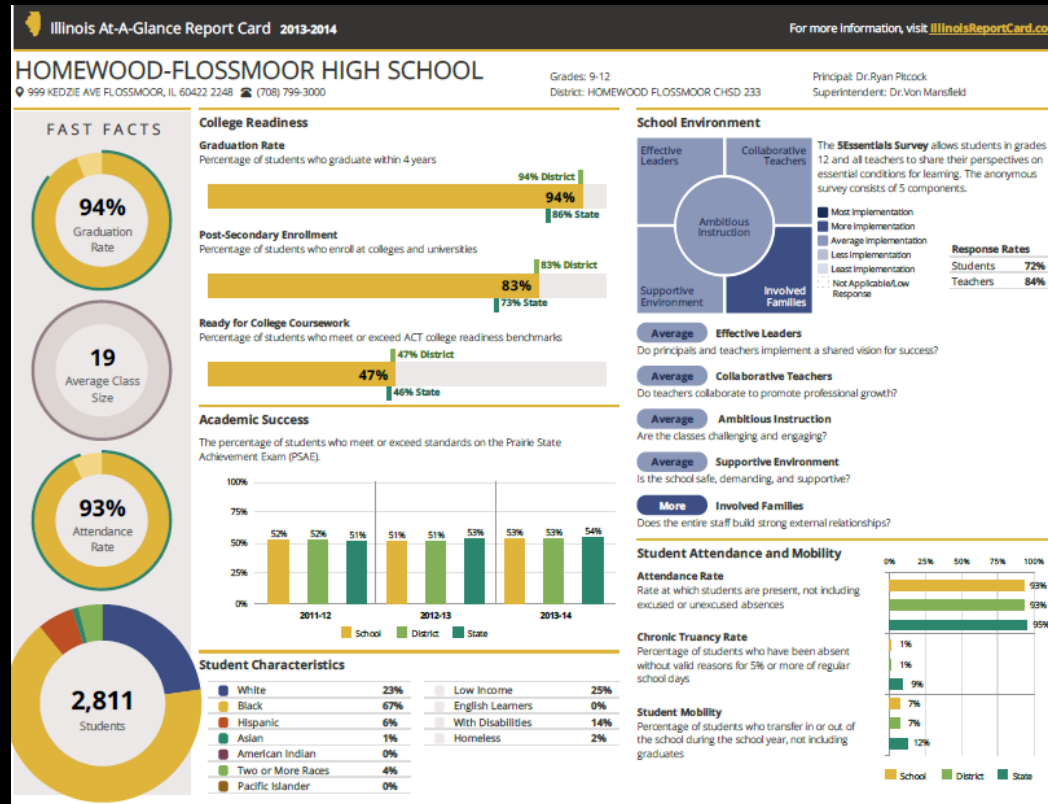
- 21 AP and 33 Honors Courses offered:
 - 10% African American student enrollment in AP
 - 28% African American student enrollment in Honors
- College visit offerings increased
 - African American students targeted
- More parent programs offered
 - African American Parent Group
- 15% decrease in suspensions
- Implementation of PBIS & RTI
- Over 18 Support Groups
 - 2 specifically for African American students

Willowbrook High School Interventions

- AP/Honors Course Enrollment Increased & Supports Added
- Post High School Preparation
 - *Targeted College Visits*
 - *TALENTED*
- Social/Emotional
 - *SWAG*
 - *W.A.R.R.I.O.R.S*
- Parent Program
 - *Increase in attendance in school wide programs*
 - *Creation of Parent Leadership Academy Network*

Homewood-Flossmoor High School

Broderick Booth, MA;
Professional School
Counselor



Homewood-Flossmoor High School Interventions

- V.I.C.T.O.R.S./V.I.R.T.U.E.
- H-F Counseling Program Changes
 - *Open Enrollment*
 - *Early College Exposure*
- H-F College Academy
- R.T.I. Counselor
- Intervention For Success/Academic Intervention

V.I.C.T.O.R.S / V.I.R.T.U.E.

- Counselor recommendation
- Sophomore thru Senior male students
 - Exceptions are made for Freshman on a case by case basis
 - 3.0-4.0 G.P.A. (Group A)
 - 1.9-2.9 G.P.A. (Group B)
 - 1.0-1.8 G.P.A. (Group C)
 - Personal/Social concerns
 - Overall Potential
- Application Process
- Counselor recommendation

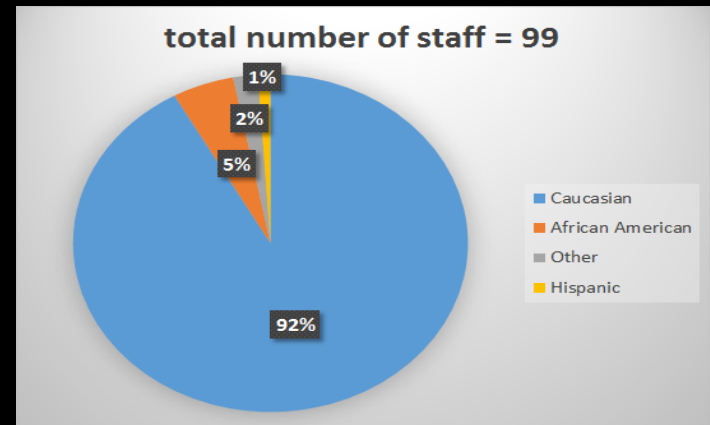
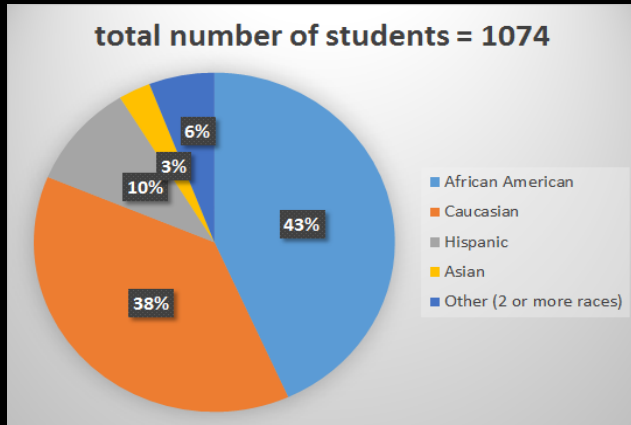
Marian Catholic High School

Farrah Ellison-Moore, MA, MEd, LPC; Director of Diversity,
College Counselor

Catholic, Coeducational College Preparatory High School located in Chicago Heights, Illinois.

Students come from 65 different zip codes within the states of Illinois and Indiana

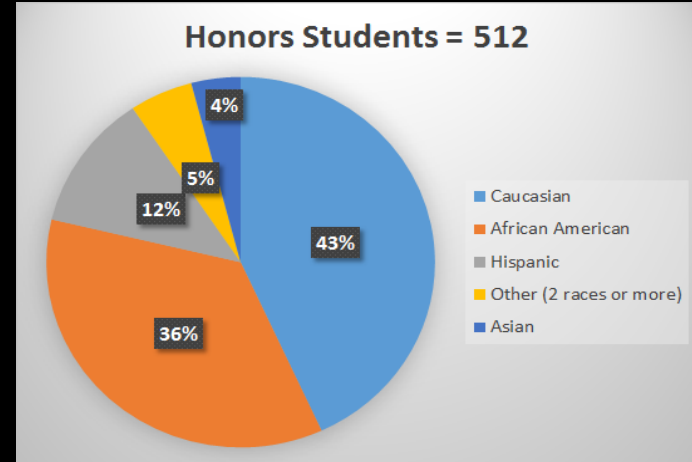
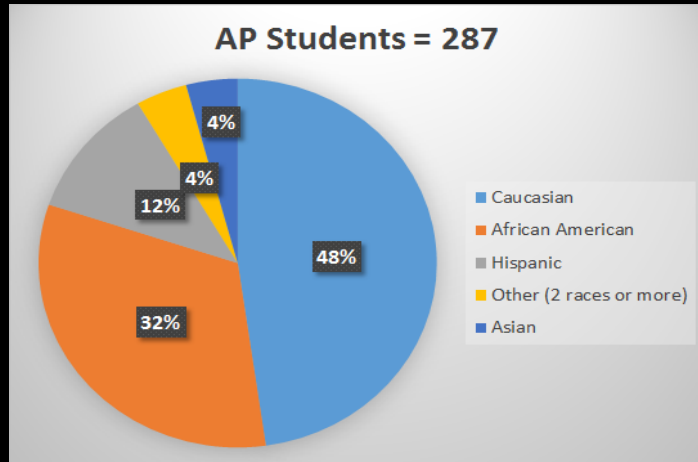
Class of 2014: 86%-4 year colleges, 10%-2 year colleges



Marian Catholic Academics

18 AP Courses: 93 African American students

22 Honors Courses: 182 African American students



Marian Catholic High School Interventions

Creation of Director of Diversity Position

- Administrative position, 2 years old, as a way to address issues of equity and inclusion throughout the school community.
- Act as a resource on diversity, equity, and inclusion issues for faculty and staff in their work with students and in their development of curriculum and programs.
- Initiate diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives in conjunction with school administration and in consideration of the unique needs of the school.
- Act as a resource for faculty and staff providing academic, emotional, and social support for diverse students and their families.

Marian Catholic College Counseling Program

- College Counseling Conferences – Private individual meetings with 2nd semester Juniors and their families regarding college selection.
- College Visits
- Family Connection
- Summer Experiences
- Workshops for students on Essay Writing, Options for 3.0 students, Alternative Admission Options
- Career Day and Career Mentor Program

Opportunities for Collaboration

- **BENSC: Black Educator Network of Suburban Chicago**

-Purpose: Create a network of overall interventions and best practices to increase the academic and post high school access and opportunity for African American students

- **Inclusion, Access, and Success (IAS) Reception**

-Thursday, April 30

4:30-5:30pm, Windsor Room

Questions ??

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