

NESHAMINY

## Schools present plans to boost test scores

*Both schools must submit the plans to the state Department of Education, officials said.*

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More time, more teamwork and more observations.

Those are just a few of the concepts that Neshaminy administrators believe will help boost state standardized test scores and meet federal goals.

As part of No Child Left Behind Requirements, those officials presented their plans to the Neshaminy school board Tuesday night.

Since Carl Sandburg Middle School's special education group missed the mark in math and reading, Principal Dawn Kelly crafted her plan after analyzing the data with teachers and consultant Karen Hessel, who's worked with other districts in the county.

Neshaminy High School Principal Alex Menio also worked with teachers and Hessel since his school's economically disadvantaged students did not meet reading goals.

Kelly said her Middletown school's targets are to focus on special education students while increasing the percentage of pupils proficient by 5 percent, or to 81 percent in reading and 87 percent in math.

To do that, the middle school officials proposed that teachers collaborate on different grade levels to come up with a special education curriculum focused on standards, use data to teach, expand co-teaching, plan more classroom observations, and provide teachers with planning time.

Menio's plan was similar. His Middletown school's percentage goals are 80 in reading and 72 in math.

That school's plan also suggested teacher teams to create common assessments, focusing on non-fiction textbooks and offering professional development for different instructional strategies.

The board is expected to vote on both plans later this month.  
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