

Pilot Project Profile: Enosburg Falls Middle High School

In the first year of the project, both Enosburg Falls and Richford high schools in the Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union were pilot schools. While the district's application to include both high schools made sense, the differing needs of the schools made coordination of a district wide approach difficult as a first step. In the second year, Enosburg Falls continued on as a pilot project and began looking specifically at the conditions that were effecting the low student achievement and graduation rates. They identified the following outcomes, based in conditions identified by students, faculty, staff, and community members in task force meetings:

- Increased flexibility in policies and procedures, particularly around supporting students who needed a "fresh start" after academic or social difficulties;
- More relevant and fulfilling academic options for students at all academic levels;
- Students feel accepted in school by adults and peers, and are motivated to succeed.

At the end of the second year, students indicated that in one year, they would like to see more relevant and fulfilling options and have academic credit available for student task force involvement. With that information in hand, a course, Leadership for Successful High School Completion, was created and a community based learning coordinator (CBL) hired. Students in the course, taught by the CBL Coordinator, will explore conditions that are contributing to school failure and design initiatives that would address those conditions. Based on school and community data, three main areas will be looked at first: literacy, substance abuse, and discipline.

The task force work also connected with community forums organized by the Vermont Council for Rural Development. The council forums focused on key concerns of the community including literacy, substance use by youth and the dropout rate. These community efforts will be represented on the task force when it convenes in the fall of 2003.