



PLC AT WORK™

EVIDENCE OF EFFECTIVENESS

Blue Valley High School STILWELL, KANSAS

SAT scores in critical reading, mathematics, and writing combined increased from 1767 to 1915.



Principal Scott Bacon with BVHS students

DEMOGRAPHICS



- 112 Teachers
- 1,456 Students
- 5.36% Free and reduced lunch
- 0.13% Limited English proficient
- 8.73% Special education
- 2.00% African American
- 5.00% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 2.00% Other

Blue Valley High School is located in Stilwell, Kansas, a suburb of Kansas City in Johnson County.

CHALLENGE

On the surface, Blue Valley High School seemed to be doing just fine. However, a closer look at the data revealed student performance was in decline. With **lagging student performance and engagement and limited teacher leadership**, then-Principal Dennis King decided to take action. “We definitely felt a sense of urgency to change the way we were doing things,” says Dr. King.

In 1998, he introduced his staff to the Professional Learning Communities at Work™ process Dr. Richard DuFour had successfully implemented at Adlai E. Stevenson High School. This culture shift would turn out to be just what BVHS needed to achieve high levels of student learning.

Target Outcomes

- Raise levels of student achievement.
- Strengthen student engagement.
- Provide personalized learning and growth for every student.
- Expand teacher leadership.
- Stay on track with a comprehensive plan for sustained improvement.

IMPLEMENTATION

Dr. King and then-Assistant Principal Scott Bacon first created a guiding coalition to help clarify the school’s mission and generate consensus among the staff. Then, they empowered leadership teams to become experts in the PLC at Work™ process. Early on, BVHS staff made trips to Stevenson and to PLC at Work™ institutes. Participants returned motivated to inspire change, sharing strategies and concepts with school teams. Within a year, capacity was built throughout the school. The once-small leadership team grew to become a schoolwide collaborative culture.

Dr. King and Bacon scheduled collaboration time into the school day. Teachers worked together to create common

formative assessments. Meaningful data informed instruction, leading to personalized learning for every student. Eventually, BVHS hosted their own PLC at Work™ Institute which brought educators from around the country to their high school, and by 2002, Dr. King was sharing the success story of BVHS with schools and districts throughout North America.

“There is no question that Solution Tree has provided significant guidance for us over the years. I have long felt that actually attending a PLC conference is one of the most powerful experiences an educator can have. I often refer to it as ‘going to the mountaintop.’”

—Principal Scott Bacon, Blue Valley High School, Kansas

“Over the years, we have relied heavily on Solution Tree offerings and resources to guide us on our journey. Without question, I would say that Solution Tree is one of the most powerful and effective professional development/support services for educators.”

—Principal Scott Bacon,
Blue Valley High School, Kansas

RESULTS

The culture BVHS created using the PLC at Work™ process, with continued training and support from Solution Tree, enabled administrators and teachers to analyze data and practices that respond to the questions:

1. What is it we expect our students to learn?
2. How will we know when they have learned it?
3. How will we respond when some students do not learn?
4. How will we respond when some students already know it?

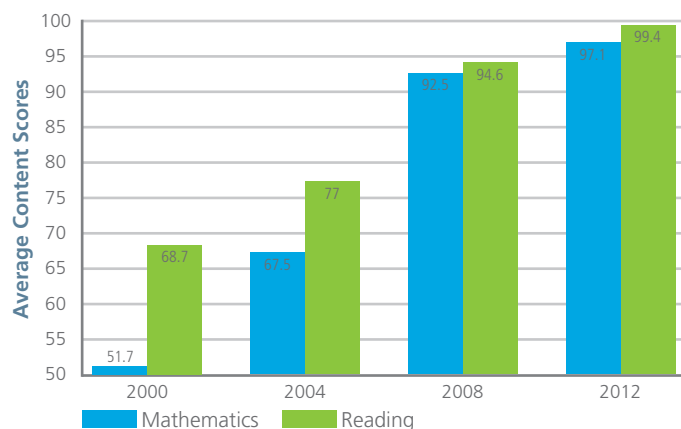
BVHS was a Governor's Achievement or Excellence award winner every year between 2002 and 2010. Each year the

school made substantial gains, and in 2012, their students earned the highest scores in BVHS history on the SAT, ACT, and Kansas State Assessment tests. This same year also saw the lowest percentage of students receiving Ds and Fs.

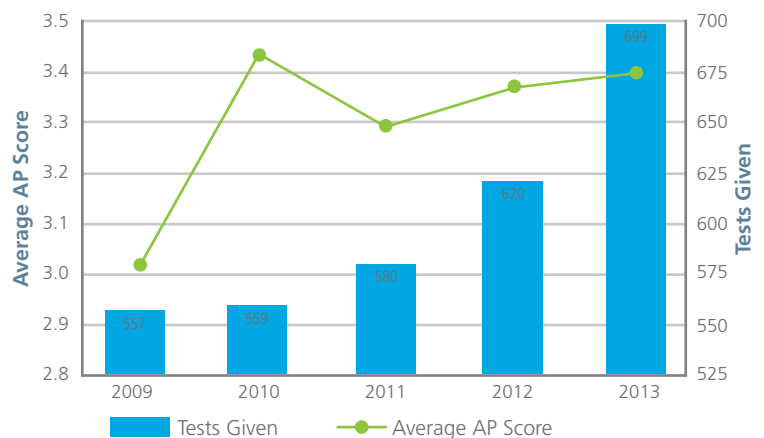
The school's intense focus on state standards and indicators continues to evolve into tighter curricular alignment. Learning targets are clearly articulated to staff and align with strategically developed formative assessments, summative unit exams, and quarterly assessments.

BVHS is now in the process of mapping content, assessment, and instruction to continue their efforts in achieving high levels of learning for all students.

State Assessment Proficiency+ Scores



Recent AP Scores



Reach new heights of student learning

You're dedicated to helping your students succeed. At Solution Tree, our experts are committed to equipping you with solutions that directly impact student achievement. We invite you to explore the best of content-rich, research-based professional development and discover just how rewarding the journey can be.

Here are just a few ways we can work together:

Customized Workshops

Bring an expert to your school! Plan a dynamic one-day session or a series of trainings. Just tell us your goals, and we'll customize an experience for you and your team.

Standard Workshops

Ever attended one of our workshops and wished you could bring it back to the rest of your team? Now you can! Let our experts come to you.

Keynotes

Bring a keynote speaker into your school, and inspire your team to take the next steps on your professional learning journey! Keynotes typically include a slide presentation and a general question-and-answer segment.

Interactive Web and Video Conferencing

Get top-notch PD from the comfort of your office or classroom! Discover personalized, research-based support from our experts on more than 100 topics, including Common Core, RTI, and 21st century skills.

Long-Term Sustainable Plans

Let us put you on the path to long-term success. We'll partner with you to develop a comprehensive and sustainable professional development plan based on your most critical challenges.

Hybrid Events

Experience a PLC at Work™ Institute from the comfort of your own school! Live streaming video will deliver dynamic and engaging keynotes, breakouts, and panel discussions to your entire team.

Find your rep!
SolutionTree.com/Director