



eSigourney Entrepreneurial Academy for Leadership (eSEAL)

Sigourney Community Charter School

**Todd Abrahamson, Superintendent
Jeff Kirby, High School Principal**

Third Party Evaluation

**Year One - Baseline
2007-08**



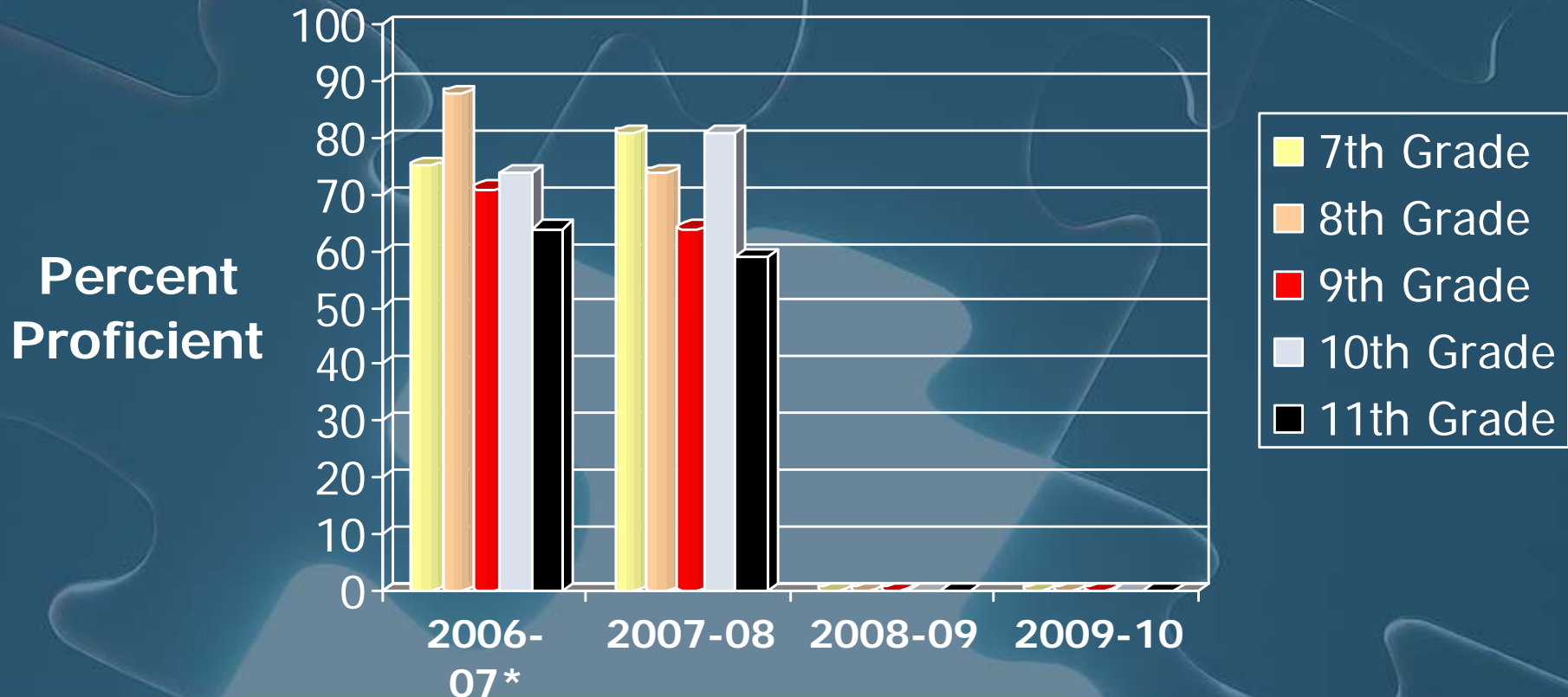
Charter School Goals

1. **All students will achieve at high levels in reading comprehension.**
2. **All students will achieve at high levels in mathematics**
3. **All students will achieve at high levels in science.**
4. **Increase the number of classroom activities that utilize technology in the classroom in grades 7-12.**
5. **Increase participation in activities that develop leadership skills in grades 7-12 (as specified in the charter application, including interaction with entrepreneurs at the local, state, national and/or international level through participation in e-SEAL and plan development).**
6. **Increase the number of students that develop a business plan that is approved by the Incubator Business Committee.**
7. **9-12 student in e-SEAL will be able to identify and evaluate market opportunities for entrepreneurial ideas.**

Goal # 1

All students will achieve at high levels in reading comprehension

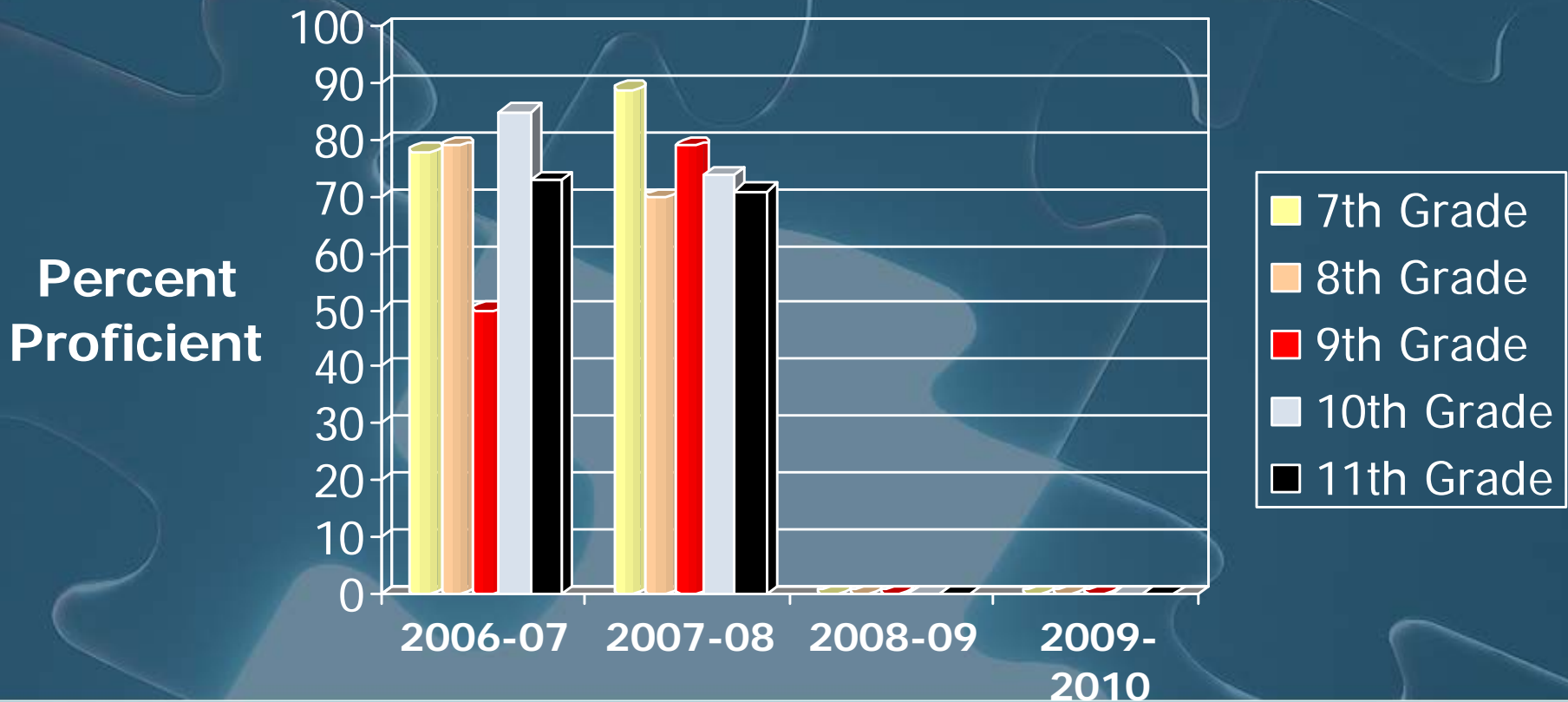
Iowa Testing Program 7th-12th Grade Reading Comprehension



Goal # 2

All students will achieve at high levels in mathematics

Iowa Testing Program 7-12th Grade Mathematics

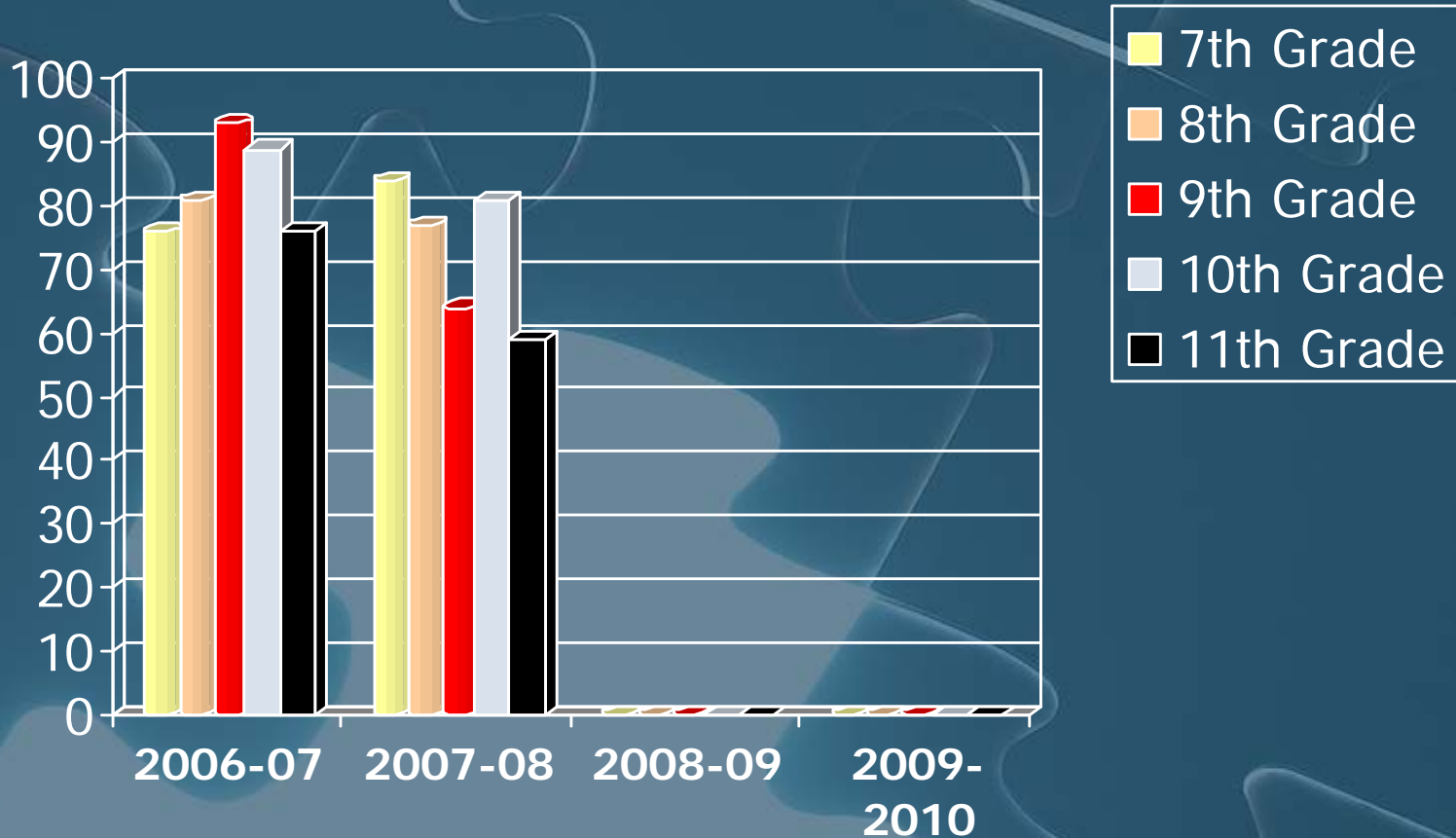


Goal # 3

All students will achieve at high levels in science

Iowa Testing Program 7th-12th Grade Science

Percent Proficient





Goals 1-3 Summary: Student Achievement

2007-08: STUDENT DATA RESULTS

First year scores show students' percentile rank on the Reading Comprehension, Math and Science. This is baseline data.

- Forty-six percent of our e-SEAL students improved percentile rank in reading comprehension.
 - Forty-four percent of students improved percentile rank on math composite.
 - Forty-two percent increased percentile rank on science composite.
- Note:** Research indicates that during the first few years of implementation student behaviors, test scores, and overall participation levels fluctuate. Data should be analyzed over 3-5 years in order to increase validity.

Goal #4

Increase access and number of activities that utilize technology in the classroom.

Baseline Data: Access – 2007-08:

- 4 mobile computer labs were added: 24 new computers per lab totaling 96 new computers
 - High School computer lab additions: 32 new computers
 - Science Lab additions: 12 new computers
 - Family & Consumer Classroom additions: 15 new computers
 - Math classroom additions: 15 new computers
 - e-SEAL Incubator Site: 11 new computers
- Total: 181 new computers**

**Additional Technology upgrades:
Smartboards in 12 classrooms**

Goal #4

Increase access and number of activities that utilize technology in the classroom

Baseline Data: Activities – 2007-08:

Students Use of Technology: Projects including

- **PowerPoint presentations**
- **Business Plan Development**
- **Financial Spreadsheets**
- **Smartboard presentations**
- **Assessments**
- **E-Bay Store**
- **Digital Archiving**
- **e-mail**
- **CAD**
- **Movie Making**
- **Tutorial (academic)**



Goal #5

Increase student participation in activities to develop leadership skills in grades 7-12

Students make regular presentations related to e-SEAL:

- e-SEAL students develop business plans and must provide justification for expenses, marketing approach, location, distribution, and pricing.
- In 2007-08 e-SEAL students have made approximately 25 formal presentations to state agencies, Iowa Legislators, business leaders, the surrounding community and their teachers regarding their charter School. Students share the opportunities they have as a result of e-seal and present their products or business, or services. They have incorporated technology into each presentation.
- e-SEAL students enrolled in a total of 77 college level courses that are dual credit offerings.
- e-SEAL students have individual business mentors once they have an approved business plan and enter the incubator. They meet jointly on a regular basis.



Classroom Curriculum: 2007-08

There are three main curriculums that are utilized by e-SEAL.

7th and 8th grade classes are utilizing the DEF Decision Making curriculum from Stanford University, which is being used in relationship to teaching leadership skills at the junior high level. Additionally, the Merrill Lynch curriculum, based on entrepreneurship and leadership, provides a broad range of Entrepreneurship skills for a younger age group of students.

9-12th Grade business plan classes are utilizing the John Pappajohn curriculum from the University of Iowa.



Goal #5

Qualitative Data

Stakeholders:

- Students serve as leaders, role modeling the application of academics in entrepreneurial ventures.
- Business leaders interviewed stated the students that participate in the charter are “experiencing education for life”.
- “The community is becoming as much aware of what their role in education can be as students are regarding their role in the economy,” stated Charter Advisory Board Members.
- Some parents are encouraging the administration to provide regular updates regarding the charter implementation and outcomes.
- Students and community members are excited about the broad range of students that are applying for the charter. Teachers are witnessing higher levels of engagement by students in the charter, especially those who are in the incubator.
- Business leaders mentor students in the incubator and continually improve the overall business plan implementation.



Goal #6

Increase the number of students that develop a business plan approved by the Incubator Business Committee.

2007-08: Students are required to organize and present business plans to the Advisory Committee for admission into the Incubator site.

8 students completed the work necessary to present a business plan to the Business Plan Committee. 6 of 8 submitted plans. All 6 were granted approval for use of the Incubator.

Note: Students are introduced to the goal of developing a business plan during their freshman and sophomore e-seal classes. Students tour the incubator and talk with peers who have started businesses.



Goal #7

9-12 students in e-SEAL will identify and evaluate market opportunities for entrepreneurial ideas

Students in e-SEAL develop business plans if they are interested in starting a business. Each plan is reviewed and evaluated by a team of business leaders. Plans must include:

- Overall Marketing Plan
- Finance Plan
- Management and Growth Plan

The Business Advisory Committee evaluates and scores each business plan against current industry standards. “Market identification is a critical aspect of the business plan and requires extensive research...and some trial and error. Next year we will need to have students even more directly engaged in both the classroom and community with business leaders to help bring relevance to this critical aspect of new business start-up,” stated one Business Advisory member.



Post-Secondary Transition: Increasing Opportunities for All Students

DUAL-CREDIT COURSES

2007-08:

- 78 different dual-credit courses were taken this year by Sigourney juniors and seniors.
- 63 juniors and seniors took advantage of Dual enrollment courses through-out the year. Courses ranged from Arts and Science to various Career & Technical.
- Twelve courses taught by Sigourney staff are appropriately licensed to provide dual-enrollment courses in-house.
- 66 courses were provided at Indian Hills Community College. Many students began programs such as welding and are prepared to finishing the program and entering the workforce soon.



Student Entrepreneurial Experiences

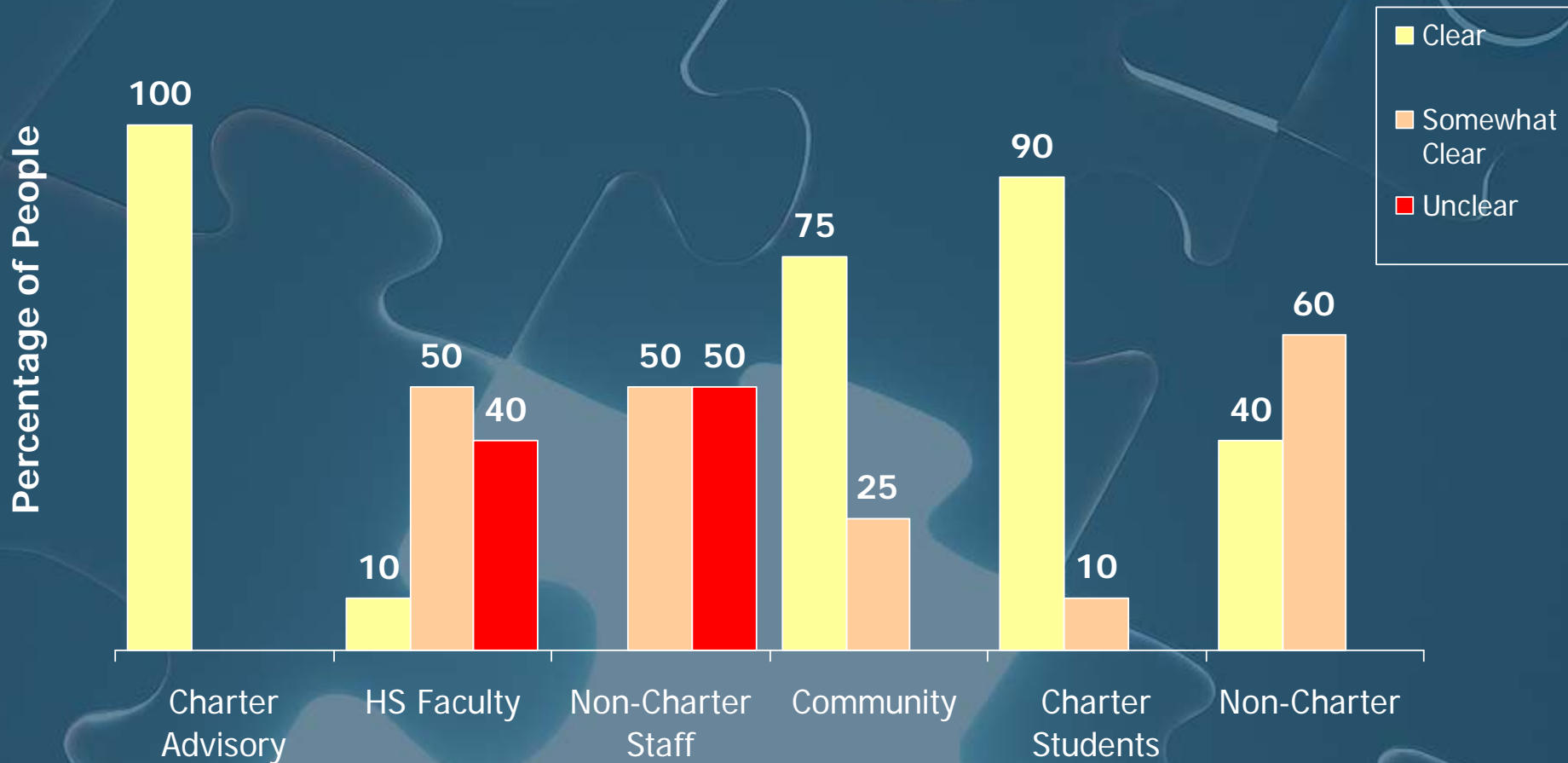
Entrepreneur

- Students have had vast opportunities to gain experiences that they would not without e-SEAL.
- The Incubator site has provided the opportunity for students to put business plans into action.
- Students have gained experiences that include visiting and presenting their business ideas at the capitol to working with patent lawyers to work towards obtaining patents for their ideas. They have experienced interviewing for newspapers writers and many political figures.
- Students have met local entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs from Alaska and the entrepreneurial base in Fairfield Iowa . Fairfield has taken notice and extended a hand to help the e-SEAL Charter students.
- The Community Vitality organization has presented in Sigourney and our Incubator Students were provided the opportunity to present businesses to the group and communicate concepts to some influential individuals in the state of Iowa.



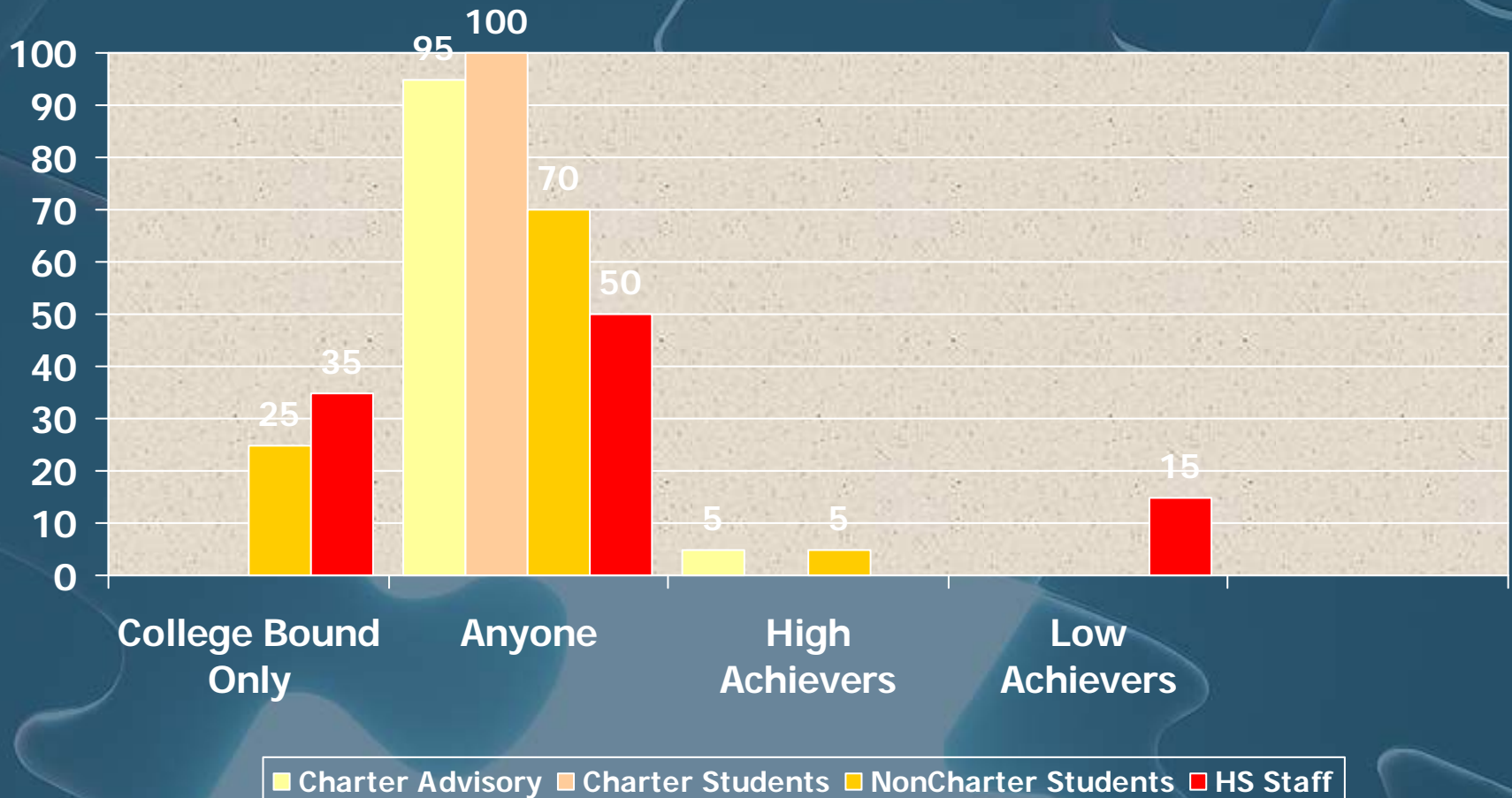
Perception Data

Overall Awareness of the Charter



2007-08 Perception data regarding student eligibility for the Charter School

Student Eligibility





Evaluation Summary: 2007-08

1. 2007-08 baseline year for data: Overall performance data analysis is premature.
2. The level of support from the business community is impressively high for the first year of implementation.
3. Business leaders are requesting higher level of involvement in the instructional side of the charter. “Students need more experiences directly with business leaders in the classroom and in the community. The current business plans being submitted could be stronger...this can happen with greater business engagement.”
4. The Advisory Committee met regularly during the pre-start-up of charter, however there has only been one meeting since school started. The Advisory must provide oversight and overall guidance for the charter. Meetings should be regularly scheduled and participation strongly encouraged. Review and evaluation of the past year should happen during the summer of 2008.
5. Awareness of the charter is growing rapidly. There have been many local and statewide news articles about the “innovation and student engagement” of the e-SEAL charter.
6. Indian Hills Community College and the e-SEAL administration have established a “student centered” relationship for the charter. Issues such as student schedules and transportation must continue to be streamlined.



Evaluation Summary Con't : 2007-08

7. Approximately 25% of students and 50% of HS staff are not clear about overall operations of the charter and incubator. Continue to educate and engage the faculty in the relationship between the charter school and the overall HS School and community. Continue parent education is equally as important.
8. The e-SEAL leadership must develop a system to assist teachers in collecting data on the total number of “leadership activities” students (7-12th grade) are engaged in as result of the Charter.
9. Sustainability for the charter has not been discussed fully. This should be a regular part of the Advisory Committee’s agenda.
10. The early introduction of entrepreneurial “spirit” in the 7th and 8th grade is commendable. Students and teachers express excitement about the e-SEAL class; business leaders stated, “students need an early introduction to build excitement about owning and starting their own business.”



Evaluation Summary Con't : 2007-08

Overall:

The e-SEAL Charter is prepared to meet overall established goals.

The charter administration and advisory committee expressed a commitment to continual improvement.

The high level of innovation of the charter is attracting a significant amount of attention from the business and education communities. The collection of both quantitative and qualitative data will be critical over the life of the charter. The outcomes could have overall implications for Iowa's education system.



Prepared and Presented

Laurie C. Phelan, Program Evaluator

515-201-6111

Laurie.Phelan@iowa.gov