



Everything is Different at Fairview High School!

One year ago, Fairview High School in Cullman, Alabama received a D on their state report card. The walls of the school were bare, the teachers were uninspired and student performance was lacking. The principal, Mr. Chris Gambrill knew something had to be done and he turned to Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence (BRSE) for help.

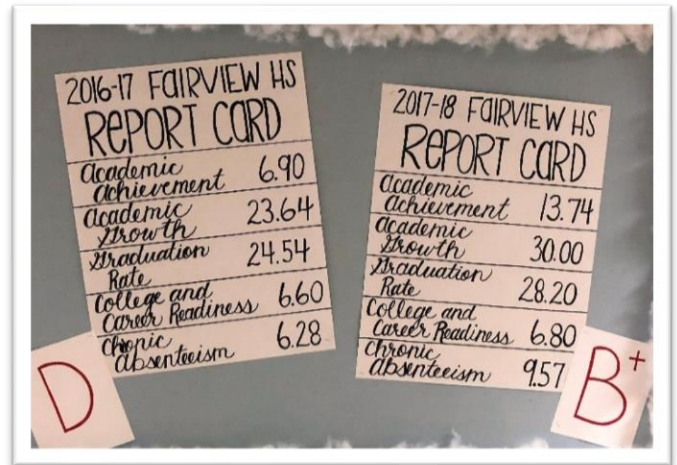
At first, Mr. Gambrill and his faculty were disappointed by the feedback from the BRSE assessment and said it was really difficult to hear. However, after meeting with Dr. Mike Hall, BRSE Senior Assessor, and team, everyone at Fairview fully committed to improvement - drastically changing the school culture, improving instruction and increasing student achievement.

"Mike told me two things when we started this process – communicate and base all decisions on data. This will stick with me forever. Now, everything we do is based on data." - Chris Gambrill, Fairview High School Principal

Since partnering with BRSE, Fairview High School has implemented an in-house data team. This team has fully embraced the idea of using data to make decisions and is doing just that! One thing that Fairview had never done in the past was use pre-tests to determine what students already know going into a class and what learning standards teachers needed to spend more time on. Diving deep into data, the team at Fairview was able to better identify the needs of their students and tailor instruction accordingly. "Why do you start on page one? Some students may be ready for page 40." – Dr. Mike Hall, BRSE Senior Assessor.

Fairview High School has now adopted the theme **"We set the standard"** – a motto the teachers and students live by every day! It's been one year since the school took the BRSE assessment and started on the road to improvement. Last month, the school that started with a D, achieved BRSE's Lighthouse School award. "Earning BRSE Lighthouse School is awesome! It is an honor to be that school that others look to as an example... to look into our classrooms and see how we're teaching. It energizes our faculty and makes it exciting to come to work!" - Chris Gambrill, Fairview High School Principal

Mr. Gambrill encourages other struggling schools to be open to the BRSE assessment and what it finds - there is always room for improvement. Way to go Fairview High School and keep setting the standard!



Is your school interested in the BRSE Assessment? Go to www.blueribbonschools.com



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