

How do we know SAC  
will make a difference?  
Because it already has.

SAC Success Story  
Galesburg



It's not just about elevating scores.  
It's about elevating students.

## Galesburg C.S.D. #205 – A gold star effort from a Blue Ribbon Team

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Fortunately for Dr. Neil Sappington, the Superintendent of the Galesburg Community School District, the sales pitch on SAC was an easy one. In fact, Anne Gengenbacher, the Principal of Silas Willard Elementary, was already sold. Always looking for ways to “turn the light bulb on for her teachers,” Anne recognized how SAC would benefit not only her own school but every initiative throughout the district.

The teachers, however, were far less receptive. One might even say a bit skeptical. So she dedicated her own efforts to helping them embrace SAC, arranging sufficient meeting times, and even attending each and every SAC meeting herself. “I learned along the way with the rest of them. We were in it together,” Anne remembers. With her unyielding support, the teachers began to embrace SAC and see the benefits of student-led assessments. Soon, the Silas Willard Learning Team became so dedicated to bringing assessments into their curriculum that every program, school-wide, was re-evaluated.

Dr. Sappington is delighted that the teachers and principals throughout the district “have used SAC as a learning tool to create a learning community.” And he’s encouraged by the “common language in the building about assessments and learning,” which has helped make SAC a completely sustainable program.

But of all the success they’ve enjoyed since adopting SAC, perhaps the greatest honor came in 2003 when the U.S. Department of Education awarded the team at Silas Willard the **Blue Ribbon Award** for three years of test scores in the top 10% of the state. Since then, thanks to a combination of SAC and curriculum mapping efforts, 100% of the 3rd grade students at Silas Willard meet or exceed standards on the I.S.A.T.

All wonderful examples of how one district used the SAC Initiative to provide teachers and principals with support to help them increase student involvement and increase scores. Something that has truly pleased Anne, who feels, “SAC can get us where we need to go. Not just to meet standards, but to exceed the standards. SAC has been a powerful tool.”

