



# Massachusetts Accountability Report Card

School counseling outcomes sponsored by the Massachusetts  
Counselors Association

*M.A.R.C. Jr.*

*2010-2011 School Year*



## Belchertown High School

142 Springfield Road

Belchertown, MA 01007

Phone: (413) 323-9351 Fax : (413) 323-9351

<http://highschool.belchertownps.org>

**DISTRICT:** Belchertown Public Schools

**GRADE LEVELS:** 9-12

**ENROLLMENT:** 784

**SCHOOL YEAR:** traditional, multi-track, year-round

**ACTING PRINCIPAL:** Desi Vega

### Principal's Comments

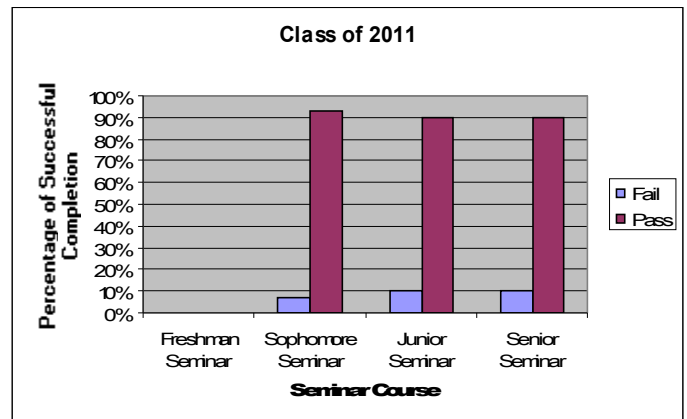
Belchertown High School is committed to high levels of achievement for all students. Our mission is to foster academic excellence and responsible citizenship in a positive, safe and respectful environment in order to develop productive contributors to society. Central to that goal is a comprehensive, high quality counseling program that not only aligns with the Massachusetts School Counseling Model but also supports student achievement. Through the implementation of seminar classes and programs designed to meet the academic, personal/social, career, and safety needs of our students, school counselors are making a positive impact on our school community. The Massachusetts Accountability Report Card (MARC Jr.) serves as an example of the use of data as an impetus for monitoring and improving our counseling services to ensure student success.

*Desi Vega*

*Acting Principal*

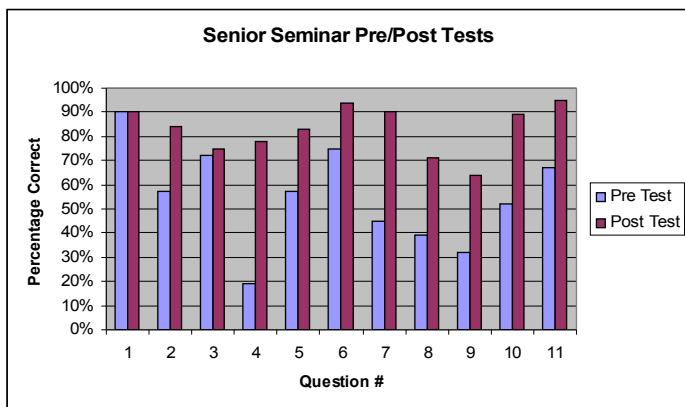


### Student Results



Already in the third year of implementing the Massachusetts Model, BHS school counselors are successfully delivering developmentally appropriate standards-based classroom lessons to their assigned students. Guidance seminars, incorporated in the master schedule, allow students to meet with their counselor in small groups six to seven times in a given term. Analysis of data reveals students' level of participation and successful completion of seminar during each of the last three school years: (1) 93% of the Class of 2011 participated and successfully completed sophomore seminar, (2) 90% of the Class of 2011 participated and successfully completed junior seminar, and (3) 90% of the Class of 2011 participated and successfully completed senior seminar. **Note:** The seminar program was implemented during the 2008-2009 school year; therefore, the Class of 2011 did not

have the opportunity to participate in freshman seminar.



BHS school counselors routinely analyze data to determine students' needs and to measure the effectiveness of services and programs. For example, senior seminar focuses on reviewing and formalizing students' post secondary plans, the college application process, financial aid procedures, and scholarship opportunities. In order that meaningful data continues to be generated, a pre test is administered at the beginning of the academic quarter followed by a post test administered at the conclusion of the seven week course. Recent post test results indicate a significant increase in knowledge: (1) 90% of Belchertown seniors are aware that their counselor must have an edited activity sheet in order to complete student letters of recommendation; (2) 84% of seniors are knowledgeable about how to submit transcript requests (27% increase); (3) 75% of seniors are aware of the allotted number of days needed to process a transcript (3% increase); (4) 78% of seniors know when to begin filing their FAFSA (55% increase); (5) 83% of seniors understand the concept and definition of early decision (26% increase); (6) 94% of seniors are aware of necessary protocol for local scholarships applications (15% increase); (7) 90% of seniors are knowledgeable about the policies and procedures for requesting letters of recommendations from teachers (45% increase); (8) 71% of seniors understand that the final deposit to the school of choice is due on May 1st (32% increase); (9) 64% of seniors are knowledgeable about the purpose of SAT subject tests (32% increase); (10) 89% of seniors understand the financial aid determination equation (35% increase); and (11) 95% of seniors are aware of the different forms of financial aid available (28% increase).

## Focus for Improvement

The counseling department is committed to the use of school and student data to drive interventions. School counselors collaborate with administrators to prioritize areas needing improvement and to align those efforts with the school improvement plan. A review of data leads us to the following focus areas for improvement:

- Continue to collect data to monitor and evaluate seminar classes
- Increase participation in seminar classes by resolving scheduling conflicts.
- Increase overall proficiency on seminar post tests

## School Counseling Team

Belchertown High School has three full time school counselors who service the academic, social, emotional, and college counseling needs for the school's 784 students. Counselors' caseloads are assigned alphabetically, which allows counselors to work with the same students all four years. With the support of administration, counselors are solely responsible for the design, coordination, implementation, and evaluation of the counseling program. Below are members of the team, including titles, level of education and years of experience in the field. Counselors are also affiliated with various local, state, and national professional organizations.

Paula Pagos	School Counselor, Department Chair	M.Ed., CAGS	31
Maggie Folli	School Counselor	M. Ed., CAGS	6
Donna Mary Petitt	School Counselor, School Psychologist	M.A.+30, NCSP	35

Counselors, on average, meet twice a month with other support professionals and administrators. The meeting consists of members of the SAT (Student Assistance Team), which includes the counselors, the principal, assistant principal, school nurse, and school resource officer. This collaborative team shares concerns and strategies for ensuring student safety and success.

