

Fairfield City Schools

Race to the Top

News You Can Use

Transparency is our Goal

A Monthly Newsletter
Issue 4 - January

Standards and Assessments (Area B)

Monthly professional development (PD) activities continue throughout our district. Hour three of the standards roll-out will begin in February. Curriculum department staff members will be coming to each building to talk about assessments.

The standards roll-out PDs continue. Teachers are doing curriculum work around the standards. Grade level and department teams have been “deconstructing” the standards, writing “I can/will” statements in student friendly language, organizing the standards into units and have started writing assessments.

Our special education preschool teachers are working diligently to match the revised standards with “Creative Curriculum”, the curriculum they currently use. They are meeting regularly with Teresa Sunderman, our special education intervention specialist, the Butler County Educational Service Center curriculum staff, and teachers from the Head Start program in our district.

The curriculum department is working with ninth and eleventh grade language arts teachers on the ELA standards this year. Originally, the plan was to work with eleventh and twelfth grade teachers. The decision was made to work with 9th grade teachers instead of 12th grade teachers because the state is still in flux regarding the language arts assessment that will be given to seniors. Since the goal is to have alignment between what is taught and what is assessed, the decision was made to wait until ODE releases additional information.

Science teachers in grades 9-12 will participate in three days of PD this year. This PD will focus on teaching the standards through inquiry and looking at the ELA literacy standards for science. The first date will be in February. Thanks to David Vernot and Kyle Jones for leading this group!

Area B - Standards and Assessments

Area C - Using Data to Improve Instruction

Area D - Great Teachers and Leaders

Thanks to all teachers who have been (or will be) pulled out of their classrooms to work on the standards roll-out. Your work is greatly appreciated! It is recognized that leaving your classroom is not easy and we thank you. A special thanks goes out to the grade level/department teams who are being pulled out for an additional six days to do work for the benefit of their entire grade level or department. We couldn't accomplish so much in such a short time without your help. You make this process possible!!! The names of the teams of teachers writing curriculum can be found at the end of this newsletter. Again, we thank you!

If you want to learn more about the standards, the Ohio Department of Education is offering workshops on understanding Ohio's revised content standards and new model curriculum in the evenings at Butler County Educational Service Center. Information about times, dates and how to register is attached. This information can also be found in the PD folder on First Class.

The formative instructional practices (FIP) pilot is complete. There were two fourth grade math teachers from South, Michelle Hilbert and Melanie Thayer, a team of four science teachers from the Freshman School, Mike Grimmett, Trisha Roberts, Harvey Stansell and David Vernot, and a team of teachers from the High School, geometry teachers, Kyle Jamison, Rebekah Kriek, Carlo Miraldi and Sara Young, language arts teacher, Chelsea Boutelle and ESL teacher Sonia Aguila. Curriculum department representation included Lani Wildow, Bill Miller and Jennie Thompson. Thanks to those who volunteered to be part of the pilot! At the final meeting on January 27, the teachers provided valuable feedback for ODE and for Fairfield

Using Data to Inform Instruction (Area C)

The Area C subcommittee is still waiting for ODE to publish the final list of specifications for the IIS system. This is the system which will, among other things, warehouse student data and allow teachers to create assessments. Hopefully, there will be additional information to report next month.

District DVALs (District Value-Added Leaders) went to the Middle School in January to talk to about value added (VA). During the next couple months this team of DVALs will attend a staff meeting in each building to provide an overview of VA reports. Additional PD will be provided early next school year once teachers actually receive his/her teacher reports via email from ODE. Math and reading teachers in grades 4-8 and science teachers in grades 5 and 8 will receive value-added reports. If you have questions, you are welcome to contact one of our District Value-Added Leaders, Lani Wildow, Jennie Thompson, Bill Miller or Dan Jeffers.

Great Teachers and Leaders (Area D)

Area D covers four different categories: Evaluation System, Measure Student Growth, Equitable Distribution of Effective Teachers and Administrators, and Effective Support to Teachers and Administrators.

Much has been written (in previous RttT Newsletters) regarding work on the evaluation system for administrators (OPES) and teachers (OTES). The OPES committee has been meeting every two weeks since October and is on target for presenting a new evaluation system to the Board for approval this spring. The OTES committee has met twice and has three meetings set up over the next few months. Look for more information to be communicated as the committee continues to meet.

Fifty percent of the administrator and teacher evaluation systems will be based on student growth. School districts across Ohio are faced with the challenge of identifying measures of student growth which can be used to supplement value-added data (which must be used), and also determine how student growth will be measured for teachers in content areas and/or grade levels that do not have statewide standardized assessments. The state of Ohio is working to create a list of assessments districts will be able to use.

A goal of RttT is to recruit, hire and retain highly effective teachers and administrators. As a tool to meet this goal, the committee is utilizing MET works (Managing Educator Talent), a research-based framework that offers a systemic approach to address the following components: recruitment; hiring; induction; professional development; compensation and incentives; working conditions; and performance management.

The committee has been and will continue to select one component each month to guide their decisions to meet their goals. As a result over the past few months, committee members have created an Exit Survey and a Working Conditions Survey. The Exit Survey will be given to all teachers who leave the district to get a better idea of why teachers leave the district or why they choose to stay. A copy of the survey is attached. The Working Conditions Survey will be distributed electronically to all certificated/licensed staff members one week before spring break and kept open until a week after spring break. Once compiled, the survey results will be sent to all.

In January, the committee discussed recruitment practices. As a result of their conversations, this year when administrators attend job fairs and recruit for new positions, they will have three goals in mind: seek applicants who are from colleges and universities across Ohio and geographic regions outside of Ohio; hire more minorities; and look at applicants who have proven themselves in their schooling. Research has shown that the most effective schools hire teachers who have done well in school themselves.

The list of teachers serving on department/grade level teams being pulled out for up to six extra days this year to write curriculum is on page 3 of the newsletter. If I miss anyone who has been part of this process, I apologize in advance. Please let me know so that I can mention your name in future newsletters.

Send Candy Aston an email through the First Class System if you have questions about the contents of this newsletter or anything related to RttT .

Special thanks goes to the following people for agreeing to serve on a curriculum writing team.

Preschool ELA and Math – Lauren Arquilla, Tari Gregory-Mersch, Ellie Jordan, Jennifer Roth, Jenny Wendth, Katie Reilly, Kim Krisley, Jennifer Stenger, Maria Steinbach and Amanda Christy.

Kindergarten ELA – Gretl Hauenstein, Jennifer Hoffman, LeighAnn Johnson, Amie Runyan, and Megan Wesco

Kindergarten Math – Carol Bonner, Shannon Bowling, Karen Darwish, Rachel Haughin and Cindy Meyer

First Grade ELA – Megan Carroccio, Stephanie Gaige, Kelly Howard, Ronda Lawson, Dee Wilmans

First Grade Math – Becky Emenaker, Stephanie Lymangrover, Meredith Richter, Carrie Tolford and Trish Williams

Second Grade ELA – Michele Campbell, Sharon Clemmons, Melissa Jackson, Lisa Pesce and Teresa Plauger

Second Grade Math – Kathy Deltufo, Lori Ingle, Vickie Massie, Pam McSwain and Kathy Rupert

Grade 4 Social Studies – Jeanette Fisher, Phyllis Gethers, Melanie Thayer, Ellen Turkelson and Susan Ventling

Grade 5 Social Studies – Karen Brassfield and Holly Templeton

Grade 6 Social Studies – Marian Kent and Kristin Sims

Grade 7 Social Studies – Heather Kauffmann and Lisa Whited

Grade 8 Social Studies – Anne Northup and Beth Robson

American History – Allison Knodel Loges, Rod Ritzie, Tim Austing, Kris Hensley

World History – Allison Curran and Matt Reisner

Government – Dan Jacobs, Adam Reed, Ann Swigart, Kim Young and Ben Zoeller

Grade 9 ELA – Laurie Burriss, Beth Toerner, Dan Garner, Larry Abbott and Jacqueline Mote

Grade 11 ELA – Corey Simmins, John Schmitt and Chelsea Boutelle

Grades 8-12 Math – Dan Beck, John Buel, Kari Hansee, Jeff Sims, Michelle Engel and Mark Rice