

Fairfield City Schools

Race to the Top

News You Can Use

Transparency is our Goal

A Monthly Newsletter
Issue 2 - October

Standards and Assessments

The first professional development activity, the one hour standards roll-out overview, has almost been completed in every building. The last one is scheduled for November 1st. Hopefully, all of you now know where to find the standards and model curriculum and have some ideas about how you might begin to change your instruction in the classroom to meet the higher rigor of the new standards.

Teachers in grades one to six have had professional development on the writing standards or will be scheduled for a release day in the near future.

Dates have also been set for teachers in Kindergarten through grade two to get started with the roll-out process for English Language Arts and Math. The first date is scheduled for November 30th.

Dates for standards roll-out professional development days for social studies teachers in grades five through eight will be communicated soon.

FCSD was invited to participate in a formative instructional practices pilot. The district is asking for cohorts of teachers willing to work together to give input on professional development modules being developed by the Ohio Department of Education. Look for additional information to follow via email.

Teachers at the Middle School have been working on common assessments. Two teachers from each department were released for a day for professional development on a comprehensive assessment system. Assessments will be developed within each content area to reflect the needs of the department. They are hoping to have another day in the near future. Administrative support of this process was strong.

Using Data to Inform Instruction

Thanks to Beth Rose for attending a RttT meeting to provide information about the data system currently

Area B - Standards and Assessments

Area C - Using Data to Improve Instruction

Area D - Great Teachers and Leaders

being used in the Freshman Building. The District will be exploring several data systems this year. ODE is supposed to award the contract to a company, in March, to develop a system for Ohio, but they have yet to decide on the specifications for the system. Districts will be allowed to use any data system, but it must meet the state specifications.

The district now has four DVALs (District Value-Added Leaders). Lani Wildow, Jennie Thompson, Bill Miller and Dan Jeffers have been trained on the utilization of Value-Added reports. They have trained the administrators and later in the year will be training the BLTs. As part of RttT, buildings will use annual Value-Added reports to guide in the planning of professional development activities.

Great Teachers and Leaders

Two new committees have been formed. One committee will look at the administrator evaluation system (OPES), and the other committee will look at the teacher evaluation system (OTES). The first job of each of the committees will be to look at how the current system aligns with the new state system which is based on the Ohio Standards for Principals and the Ohio Standards for the Teaching Profession (which were sent out with the September newsletter). The framework for the administrators must be completed by the end of this school year and will be used next school year. The teacher evaluation system will not be in effect until the 2014-2015 school year after the FCTA contract has expired on June 30, 2014. More information about the OTES is attached.

Another activity in the RttT Scope of Work is to determine how best to maintain highly effective teachers and administrators. The committee designed an exit survey to collect and analyze teacher and administrator retention and attrition data. The survey will be sent out soon. Look for information regarding survey results to follow later in the year.

Send me an email if you have questions about the contents of this newsletter or anything related to RttT .