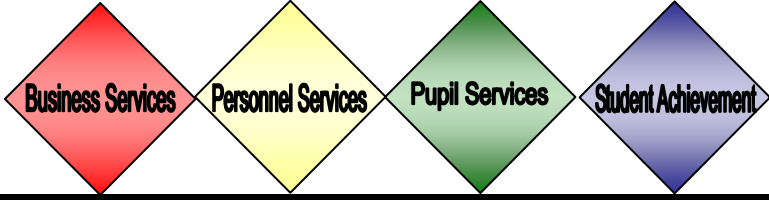




# School District of New London



## MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Bill Fitzpatrick  
District Administrator  
Date: August 3, 2010

### New State Laws & Legal Updates

Last week I attended a legal seminar for Superintendents. There was an abundance of information shared. I will use this update over the next few months to select a topic or two that the Board should be made aware of. Attached you will find several pages of new laws passed in the last legislative session. Please take a moment to review these changes some of which will have policy implications. Of note are the following:

1. Regular attendance in five-year-old Kindergarten
2. Requirements for Human Growth & Development curriculum
3. Medicine administration at school
4. School Safety Plans
5. Bullying

### Bullying Policy

A new state law (Wis. Stats. 118.46) requires districts to adopt a specific policy related to bullying. The bill required the DPI to develop a model policy for schools by March 1. That policy guidance was received on June 17. Districts are to have policy approved by August 15. In our review, we already have a Harassment policy on the books. Due to the fact that the bullying policy must have specific elements and needs to be put in place prior to the start of the school year, we have decided to format the DPI proposal to fit with our format and seek your approval as a stand alone policy.

This matter will then be considered by the Policy Committee during the coming school year to consider merging the two policies into one with the critical elements of each included. We will then bring policy reconsiderations to the board through the regular policy approval process should the committee recommend any changes.

### 2010-2013 Technology Plan Sate Approved

We have received notification that our Information, Library Media and Technology plan has been certified as meeting the full, comprehensive set of planning criteria stipulated by the state. This certification is effective July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2013. It allows us to participate for the duration in the FCC Universal Service Fund E-rate and Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) programs, as well as any other federal or state technology program requiring a state-certified technology plan.

### Monitoring of Federal ESEA Consolidated Programs

This past year New London was selected as one of a handful of districts to go through an extensive monitoring audit by the Department of Public Instruction of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Consolidated Program. This review was for all federal program funding entitlements under the act. Although many individuals contributed to the preparations for the visit in April, Directors, Kathy Gwidt, Ann Christopherson and Richard Yerkey coordinated the efforts and participated on-site and phone monitoring process with representatives of DPI. We recently received the final sixty-six (66) page report. There were no elements that were incomplete or unacceptable, with no corrective action required. The only recommendation was as follows: "New London is a model district in terms of how they use their data to incorporate a continuous cycle of improvement, data-based decision-making, and allow for authentic input from a broad range of stakeholders. Their district improvement plan is truly a living document. We recommend that they present at the 2011 Every Child a Graduate conference so other districts in the state may learn from their experience." What a strong endorsement!

A copy of the monitoring report is available for your review if you so wish.

### WASB Training

You may have received notification for the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) regarding the annual Region 7 Fall Regional Meeting. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 6, at Bridgewood Resort in Neenah. The agenda includes awards, elections, legislative update, the director's report and the feature presentation "Technology at Work and in Our Schools."

WASB is again hosting their Employment and Labor Law Seminars. The theme is "Contract Administration During The Great Recession". There are several options should you choose to attend. The closest is in Green Bay on Friday, September 24. Seminars are also scheduled in Madison on Friday, September 17 and Eau Claire on Friday, October 1.

If you choose to attend any of these events, please contact Jill Willner so that she can facilitate you registration.