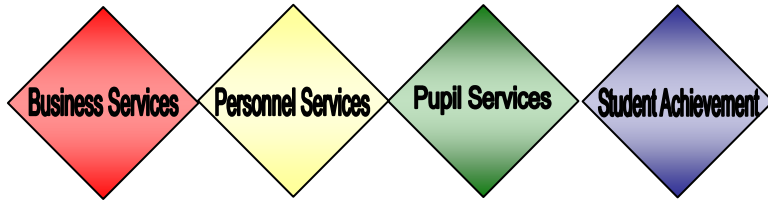




School District of New London



MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Kathy Gwidt

Director of Teaching and Learning

Date: August, 2010

Monitoring of ESEA Consolidated Programs:

We are pleased to report that we recently received a very positive 66 page summary from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) outlining our April 13 audit of Consolidated Programs. An excerpt from the DPI summary includes:

We were pleased to see the variety of data used in developing your Consolidated Plan. There appears to be a great deal of collaboration and coordination between various program areas. The data analysis model used by the district is extraordinary and you are commended for that. Your professional development initiatives are well prepared to address the needs of teachers and hence improve student achievement.

The New London School District is commended for its comprehensive needs assessment process carried out across all ESEA Title programs. The fact that administration is completely behind the effort shows true commitment on the part of all staff for the ultimate well being and welfare of all students in attendance across all schools.

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.

Although we took notes of areas for continued improvement we had only one recommendation, and that was to present at a future *Every Child a Graduate* conference in Madison so that others could learn from our experience. A huge thank you goes out to all who aided in the success of this monitoring visit. The complete report is available upon request.

4K Early Learning: New London and Hortonville 4K teachers continued their joint professional development opportunities as they participated in *Creative Curriculum* training in Room B119 this past week. The organizational structure of *Creative Curriculum* includes:

- How Children Develop and Learn
- The Learning Environment
- What Children Learn
- The Teacher's Role
- The Family's Role

Participants left with a clear understanding of how they will apply developmentally appropriate practices to their teaching so that they match the way children develop and learn.

STEM: Final reports have been submitted for our 2009-10 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) grant. Fifteen teachers received research-based professional development for the purpose of implementing the grant project while 308 students participated in Einstein curriculums. Elementary schools will utilize building budgets during the 2010-11 school year to sustain the Electrical Circuits unit in grade four, and grade five will utilize resources within their classrooms to carry out hands-on, inquiry based curriculums.



Data Retreat: Our district's upcoming Data Retreat will take place on Thursday, August 12. The Data Retreat provides an opportunity for leadership teams to collaboratively study district and building level data. Leadership teams work together through a guided process to discover data patterns, pose hypotheses, monitor and adjust school improvement plans. Teams will report outcomes during the Opening Day Inservice and September's Board of Education meeting.