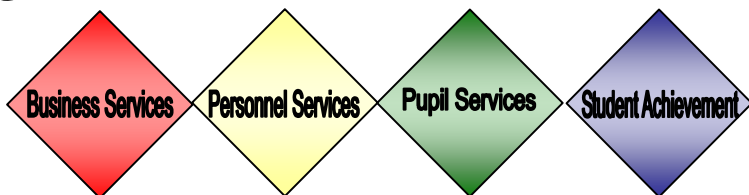




School District of New London

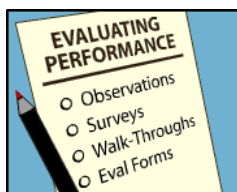


MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Kathy Gwidt

Director of Teaching and Learning

Date: December, 2011



Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Project

CESA 6 has organized a collaborative endeavor for the purpose of Improving Teacher and Leader Effectiveness. The initial

phase of the project involves the work of three design teams: (1) Teacher Effectiveness; (2) Educational Specialist Effectiveness; (3) Leader Effectiveness. As a member of the Teacher Effectiveness team, I have worked with teachers, administrators and educational specialists from surrounding districts, post-secondary institutions, and CESAs. Our team has focused on the development of standards and rubrics that can be used by school districts to describe, monitor, and measure what effective teaching and leadership looks like. The work of these teams will aid in assisting districts in successfully recruiting, supporting, assessing, and retaining effective teachers and leaders.

Mentor Update

A mentoring grant for initial educators has been submitted to the Department of Public Instruction. If funded, we will receive reimbursement in the amount of \$3,000 which will supplement payment to qualified mentors within the district.

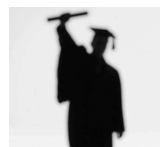
Wendy Dallman and Tami Thorne continue the facilitation of Mentor Seminars and monitor Moodle postings for initial educators and their mentors. A sample of the topics of study for the 2011-12 school year include:

- Instructional Planning and Delivery
- Classroom Management
- Conferencing
- Differentiation
- Assessment
- Professional Development Plans
- Employee Benefits

November 23 Teacher Inservice:

The November 23 Inservice was our district's first half-day inservice. The K-8 team met at the middle school and had the opportunity to learn from each other as a series of eleven sectionals were made available by teachers and principals. Evaluations noted the power of learning from colleagues.

Our 9-12 team worked to reinforce the question of "Why?" in regard to the implementation of Career Academies. Staff provided a panel discussion which gave rich examples and added increased motivation to provide this opportunity for students. Team time was scheduled for each Academy to work on specific tasks from creating each team's mission to better understanding how projects can be approached in an interdisciplinary way.



Common Core Standards

In June of 2010, Wisconsin adopted the *Common Core Standards*.

Created by teachers, parents, education experts, and others from across the country; the standards provide clear, consistent expectations for what students should be learning at each grade in order to be prepared for college and career. At this point, over 40 states have adopted the Common Core Standards.

So, what does this mean for a district that has worked diligently to establish clear learning targets over the past few years?

It means that we have a much better understanding of how effective standards and benchmarks aid in the improvement of student achievement. We have been comparing the Common Core Standards to local standards over the past months and have fully aligned K-6 documents. Our work is continuing for grades 7-12 to ensure all standards are fully aligned to the Common Core Standards.