



School District of New London

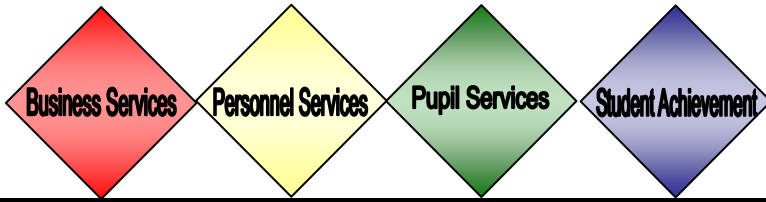
BOARD OF EDUCATION

MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Kathy Gwidt

Director of Teaching and Learning

Date: February 10, 2009



Promising Programs:

As you know, our district received a Peer Review and Mentoring grant this year. Our team's intent in writing this grant was to further develop our current initial educator induction program. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) recently reviewed our progress, and after these monitoring interviews recommended that we apply for the DPI's *Promising Program* acknowledgement. We will learn of our status in the upcoming months. If awarded this acknowledgement, our district will serve as a model for mentoring programs in our state.



Response to Intervention:

You will hear more and more about Response to Intervention (RtI) at both the state and local level. This regular education initiative refers to a school-wide method of service delivery that integrates general, compensatory, gifted, and special education to provide high-quality instruction and intervention matched to students' needs.

Our district's study of RtI is helping us to understand how we can systematically integrate high-quality teaching and assessment methods so that students who are not successful when presented with one set of instructional methods can be given the chance to succeed with the use of other practices.

Additional information can be found at:
<http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/pdf/ldrcon-couillard.pdf>

New London Academy:

The Mission Leadership Team approved a proposal for Amy Menchl and Jessica Phillips to present *Response to Intervention (RtI) as an Educational Initiative*. Each school is represented by groups of teachers and administrators. At the completion of the course, teams will provide professional development and serve as leaders in the implementation of the RtI model throughout the district.

Webpage Training:

All teachers in the district are being trained to develop their own classroom webpage. Donna Young, Michele Green and Pat Peters have been providing these staff development opportunities utilizing early release time, team planning time and a rotating substitute teacher schedule. Training will be completed by May.

Licensure:

Licensure protocols have been developed and shared with administrators. We are hopeful that these guidelines help to avoid future issues with the requirements of PI34. Implications for hiring include asking candidates to provide written confirmation from their college that all coursework has been completed and they are eligible for a teaching license in the event their license has not been fully processed by the DPI prior to the interview. All faculty members whose license expires in June have been sent a renewal reminder from our office.



Record Editing System (RES):

The WSAS Record Editing System (RES) window closed on January 23. This was the final opportunity for administrators to ensure that data used by the DPI for reporting and accountability are accurate and complete. Remarkably, we made only a few corrections to data this year. This positive outcome is attributed to the effort of Julie Haase, building, special education and guidance secretaries who work to correctly enter data into our system. Initial Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE) reports should be available in March.

Reading Convention:

Seven middle school teachers, one high school and one elementary teacher joined me on February 5, 6 and 7 for the Wisconsin State Reading Association's (WSRA) annual convention in Milwaukee. This professional development opportunity is considered to be one of the best in the nation. We concentrated on the application of best practice in both our curriculums and daily instruction.