



School District of New London

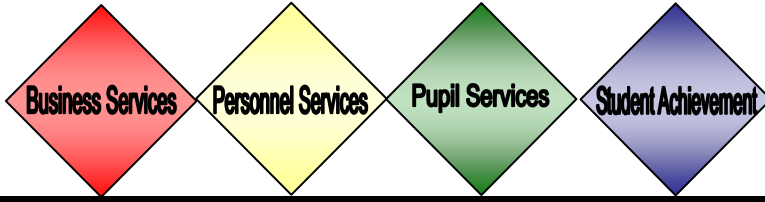
BOARD OF EDUCATION

MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Kathy Gwidt

Director of Teaching and Learning

Date: January 5, 2009



Clear Learning Targets:

Standards and benchmarks are available for 6th-7th grade English Language Arts (ELA). A draft will be available for grade 8 at the end of the month. I will continue to work with curriculum teams to publish unit and lesson plans that accompany standard/benchmark documents. Jane Pollock will join us January 29 for continued district level training. Topics of this training will include instructional planning and delivery.



K-12 Mathematics:

Math Expressions™ will be shared during the January 28 early release when our K-5 teachers begin their review of math resources. We hope to fully adopt updated K-5 resources by the end of the 2009-10 school year.

The 6-12 math teachers will meet at the middle school during the January 28 early release to discuss the implementation of resources they received this year. Their focus will be on Algebra transitions.

Record Editing System (RES): To ensure accurate data Wisconsin school districts have an opportunity to review student demographics and testing status during the WSAS Record Editing System (RES) window from January 14-23. RES is the final opportunity for districts to ensure that data used by the DPI for reporting and accountability are accurate and complete. Building secretaries and principals will work together to ensure accuracy. Julie will be busy with revisions and additions pending input from the schools.



ParaEducator Training:

Ann Christopherson and I are developing an inservice for Instructional ParaEducators. Potential topics include: responsibilities, classroom management, instructional strategies that enhance learning, teaming and communication.

Mission Leadership Team

Our Mission Leadership Team will meet on January 7. We will review a course proposal for a New London Academy offering titled: *Rtl as an Educational Initiative*. Since our last session, Action Teams have continued working on independent tasks to include:

- Response to Intervention (Rtl)
- Report Card Rubrics
- Evaluation/PGP's (Professional Growth Plans)
- Substitute Teacher Handbook

A draft of the Substitute Teacher Handbook will be made available for review, and the full group will provide feedback.

Scantron:

Students in grades 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 are taking reading and math Scantron assessments from January 12-February 13. Each of these computer adaptive tests takes students about an hour to complete. Schools sign up with our office to ensure technology availability. The system doesn't allow more than 60 students to test at one time. Currently schools sign up in the fall, winter and spring. Next year we will ask schools to develop a Scantron schedule for the year that allows 11 weeks between test periods. This test gives educators a snapshot of students' performance and allows us to monitor progress and differentiate instruction.



Professional Development:

On February 5-7 a team of eight teachers will attend the WI State Reading Association's annual convention in Milwaukee to include one elementary, one high school and six middle school teachers. In past years, we have sent mainly elementary teachers. We will focus on middle and high school participation in upcoming years, and I have shared a schedule with interested staff. This is an awesome opportunity for best practice professional development that focuses on literacy. We have capped the participation of this event to eight to respect substitute teacher availability.