



School District of New London

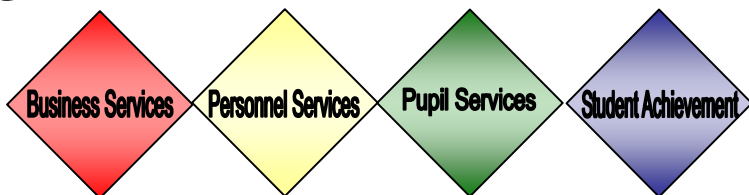
DIVISION

MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Ann Christopherson

Division: Pupil Services

Date: January 2011



Cross-Training in Special Education

On three January dates, Jill Spencer, Dani Kamba, and Susan Resch are providing specific training on supports needed by special education students at the middle school. This includes a focus on behavioral and medical needs and is child-specific.

As we move forward with more inclusive settings and in times where we are experiencing greater financial strains, we need to make sure that all the people paid to be special education paraeducators have the same skill set to support any and all children in special education, whatever program and whatever building they attend. We are working to ensure that ALL special education paraeducators have the same skills, each capable to fulfill the needs in any special education placement across the district.

Currently as part of their job description, special education paraeducators must be certified in Nonviolent Crisis Intervention to assist with behavioral needs. They are also expected to be certified in CPR and maintain timely recertification. They are also expected to perform duties, such as, but not limited to diapering, dressing, feeding, and complete medical procedures as trained and delegated by the school nurse. These expectations set them apart from the regular paraeducator position and we want all capable to assume any special education paraeducator position.

SCHOOL LANGUAGES

We speak 7 native languages in the School District of New London. Languages spoken in our schools include: English, Czech, Hmong, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

The School District of New London currently serves 141 (149 in the 2009-10 school year) English Language Learners (ELLs) with the support of four

full-time bilingual teachers and two full-time bilingual tutors.

While our Spanish speaking students receive biliteracy instruction (instruction in both English and Spanish languages), students who speak other languages receive ESL (English as a Second Language) services to assist them in the development of their English language acquisition and comprehension of the language.

DPI Awards School AODA Mini Grants



The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has awarded the 2010-2011 student mini-grants after review of proposals. Proposals

must be submitted by students with adult support. They are designed to encourage youth to become more involved in the development and implementation of programs that are of interest to them and also provide for innovative prevention and wellness programs.

This year, our district has been awarded two mini-grants for Sugar Bush and Lincoln Elementary School proposals. Connie Morton, Advisor for the Lincoln mini-grant will again carry forward her work with the "Hugs Not Drugs" group. They will receive \$1,000 for their program. Brian Boushele and his student team at Sugar Bush also will receive \$1,000 for their "Student Choice" program.

Dollars, once allocated by the federal government for Safe and Drug Free Schools, are no longer funding these important endeavors in our schools. We are appreciative that we are able to continue the efforts of children in their ownership of health and wellness in their developmental years.