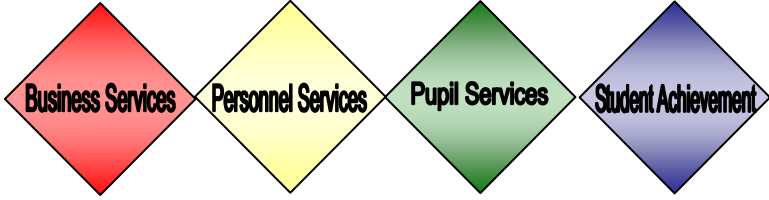




School District of New London



MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Kathy Gwidt

Director of Teaching and Learning

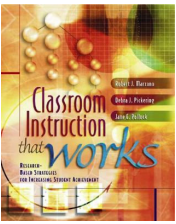
Date: September, 2009

Classroom Instruction that Works:

Jane Pollock addressed our staff during the Opening Inservice on Wednesday, August 25. Prior to this time, she had met with several small groups to aid in the effort to provide Clear Learning Targets. I will continue this work, and Jane's focus will turn to providing professional development opportunities which highlight research-based strategies that increase student achievement. We will work together to make these strategies an automatic part of instruction.

Jane shared research that will support our teachers and administrators as we work together to make significant gains regardless of language, disability or poverty.

She explained that teachers will make the difference as they intentionally use an articulated curriculum to guide planning for instructional delivery. We must implement high-yield strategies, provide formative feedback to students, and track progress to the curriculum objectives in a gradebook so that useful patterns emerge and the teacher can use correctives with students in a timely fashion.



The need for clear learning targets and support to make these practices automatic became apparent. We look forward to another great year of learning with Jane as we proceed into 2009-10.

Mentoring:

Mentor Support Seminars are off to a great start and a second Peer Review Mentor Grant has allowed our district to again host consortium mentor training. New London, Weyauwega-Fremont and Manawa staff will take part in this training which allows these districts to increase their mentor pools. This grant funds facilitators, Tami Thorne and Wendy Dallman, who have prepared training that utilizes face-to-face and Moodle online instruction.

Elementary Einsteins:

The Department of Public Instruction recently awarded the School District of New London \$4,465 for a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math grant (STEM). This STEM grant program was created to assist districts in developing innovative instructional programs to increase the academic achievement of students in these subjects.

Funding will provide hands-on science materials and professional development related to the Einstein Project. Units such as *Electric Circuits* will aid fourth grade teachers in introducing students to basic properties of electricity as they learn about circuitry. Learning will culminate with the application of knowledge and skills as students wire a cardboard house. Connections to 21st century skills, careers and local partnerships encourage relevance.

The department received applications nearly triple the funding available, so we are very fortunate to move forward with our request.

Title I:

The start of the school year provides many Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requirements. The district's Consolidated Report has been submitted.

Regular Title I and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) dollars will fund portions of the salaries of three of our district's reading teachers, an instructional data coach and math coach. A percentage of Title funding is used to coordinate programming in intervention for the private schools to include: Emanuel, MPB and Starr Academy/Rawhide.

Requests:

There are many areas that touch upon 'teaching and learning', so I invite readers to let me know if there is something you would like detailed in monthly reports. I look forward to hearing from you, and to an exceptional 2009-10 school year.