

Charleston CUSD #1

Fourth Quarter Curriculum and Instruction Update, April 2012

Assessment

At the March 23 *Assessment Committee* meeting, members were presented with recent PARCC (upcoming state standardized testing) news, reviewed our district's Rtl assessment practices, and recommended updated assessment calendars to the Rtl Committee. Suggested changes to the calendars include: administering either the reading diagnostics DRA2 or the QRI at the 7th and 8th grade levels and eliminating the K-TEA reading diagnostic at the 4th-6th grade levels. The district's current assessment calendars for English Language Arts and Math (and a PARCC update) can be viewed on our district's website. Collaborating with the Rtl Committee, Kristen Holly is developing an "Rtl Handbook" that would outline the district's assessment practices. As part of the handbook, an initial progress monitoring interactive guide can be viewed on the "G" drive. The committee also recommended the continued use of AIMSweb and MAP for universal screeners. A three-year subscription to NWEA (MAP), for example, will save the district \$1,000 each year.



Common Core Standards

The new ISBE-adopted Math and English Language Arts standards (K-12) are intended to better prepare Illinois students for success in college and the workforce. Our school district has begun the process of incorporating the *New Illinois State Learning Standards Incorporating the Common Core* into our local curriculum. Our revised math curriculum maps were developed last year to align with the Common Core Standards (CCS). Our English language arts curriculum maps are currently being revised to align with the CCS. In revising our K-6 student progress reports, the Report Card Committee used the CCS, in part, to guide its work. Latest reports indicate that such standards will next be developed for the subject of science and social science. As our district moves steadily over the next few years to align our instructional practices to the new standards, educators can learn more about the new standards at http://www.isbe.state.il.us/common_core/default.htm



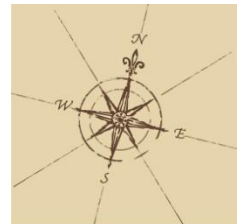
Curriculum and Advisory Councils

These councils recommend staff development activities, curriculum changes, textbook adoptions, and testing programs to the superintendent. Staff members are encouraged to read the minutes/notes from each curriculum council meeting (accessible from council representatives or principals) and work with their representatives to participate in various curriculum recommendations. Remaining quarterly meeting dates are as follows: HCC (April 3); MCC (April 4); ECC (April 10).



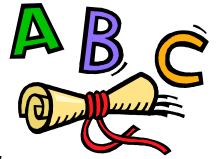
Curriculum Mapping

As we continue to implement and align our ELA and math maps with the Common Core Standards (CCS), mapping teams rely on teachers' input to strengthen the district's curriculum. Instructional Coach Kristen Holly continues to meet this year with the ELA curriculum mapping team. Math teacher representatives continue to meet by grade level and in small groups to develop unit and lesson activities that are aligned with the CCS. Board approved curriculum maps can be viewed on the district's "G" drive and on the district's website.



District Literacy Team

The District Literacy Team meets twice annually to enhance instructional practices in literacy by researching the most effective practices in literacy instruction, reviewing and updating district and school literacy plans, and providing guidance and resources to colleagues in order to continually renew district-wide efforts to embed the 10 *Comprehensive Literacy Model* features into classroom instruction and school culture. More information about our district's *Comprehensive Literacy Model* can be found on our "G" drive. The next Literacy Team meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 13 from 12:30 – 3:30.



Gifted and Talented Education

This committee meets annually to review our district's offerings for children who qualify as 'gifted and talented.' The last committee meeting was held on February 13. At the February 27th Parent/Teacher Night, six 4th grade students presented math problems to attendees. Committee members are exploring initiatives such as cluster grouping, study of eligibility determination data, expanded university partnerships and flexible inter-school scheduling. More information about our district's gifted programming is posted on our district's [website](#).



Rtl (Response to Intervention)

At the last District Rtl Committee meeting (April 2), members reported on building level Rtl plans and goals. Building level Rtl teams are studying school data to examine Tier I and Tier II practices. Rtl teams are also working to provide clarity and expectations for our schools about each school's Rtl processes. Results of this work are aimed at developing an Rtl "handbook" for the district to help guide and sustain our practices. Questions about Rtl can be directed to building level Rtl team members, district level Rtl Committee members, or District Rtl Coordinator Kristen Holly.



Textbook and Instructional Materials

Math textbook/instructional materials piloting and purchasing are planned for the 2012-2013 school year. The group of teachers who expressed interest in exploring available Common Core Standards-aligned math textbook and instructional materials have narrowed and selected three "series" for interested K-6 teachers to pilot next year. Materials that are planned for piloting are from the following series: EnVision Math, Go Math, and Saxon Math. Information about piloting has been emailed to principals and teachers on ECC, the math mapping team, and the math textbook exploratory team. If you are interested in piloting and did not receive the "piloting email," contact your principal for the information. As with past practice, it would be best for at least one teacher from each grade level to pilot each of the series. All teachers are invited (no teachers are required) to pilot. Sample materials for these series can be viewed in Room 118 at the Central Office during regular office hours (7:00 – 4:00).

