

District Improvement Progress Report  
October 2006

Development and Evaluation of Curriculum

- The Science Curriculum Team met for the second time and identified the core science courses that would be offered at each high school, created consistent course descriptions for these courses, finished assigning the physical science grade span expectations (GSEs) to appropriate grade levels and developed the curriculum feedback process from all teachers PK-12 that will be utilized this school year.
- High school Science teachers met at each high school during the October early release day to create a proposal for a course offerings at the high school level that will satisfy the new Science Literacy GSEs as well provide a challenging and comprehensive science program
- The Mathematics Curriculum Team met and began to create the district-wide trimester and semester assessments
- The Secondary Language Arts Curriculum Team met and created a rubric for evaluation of the district-wide writing prompts and samples that will be piloted this school year as well as identified three pilot resources that will be tested out this school year at the middle and high schools.
- The DI Assessment Team met with a representative from WestEd to hear about additional assessment tools, finalized the draft district assessment calendar as well as completed the draft of a detailed data analysis process for use district wide

Delivery of Curriculum

- Elementary classroom teachers participated in writing related professional development during the October early release day
- Elementary and middle school math coaches continue to work in all elementary and middle schools in the district helping teachers to understand the new mathematics curriculum as well as align their instruction to the new standards
- **CR**reating Independence through Student Owned Strategies (CRISS) training took place at Hillside, Parkside and McLaughlin during the early release day in October
- Middle school and high school Language Arts teachers engaged in the new curriculum overview training on the early release day in October
- Middle school and high school Mathematics teachers engaged in Depth of Knowledge training on the early release day in October
- Middle school Science teachers not engaged in CRISS training participated in the new Science Literacy GSE awareness training on the October early release day
- DI Professional Development Team met to finalize the new Staff Development Master Plan for the Manchester School District. The plan has been submitted to the State Department of Education of review and then will proceed through the district approval process

Climate and Culture

- The DI Culture and Climate team met and broke into their various subcommittees
- The visions subcommittee created an exercise for each school within the district to engage in, in order to make the newly approved vision statement come alive for the district staff.
- The decision making subcommittee research various decision-making models including the Joyce Epstein model for family, community and school partnerships that is already

- being used at Wilson Elementary and many social workers in the district are trained in. They are also investigating decision making models for school board interactions as well
- The communications subcommittee began creating a communications initiative to better inform the entire community including staff about the district improvement progress and work
  - The diversity committee began work on their family and community engagement plan proposal
  - New members were added to the DI teams and an orientation meeting was held for them on October 19th

#### Monthly Communication

- DI update meeting was held for all principals on October 3, 2006 where the principals gave their input on the draft Staff Development Master Plan
- The new DI plan as well as progress reports were posted on the Manchester School District website