

Assistant Superintendent Report
Region One Schools
January 2020

2019-2020 Budget

I have been working with Dr. Vogel, Sam Herrick, the Region One administration team and the Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC), to organize the Curriculum and Professional Development budget for the next school year. The key components of the Region One Curriculum and Professional Development budget will not change this year. A preliminary outline of the 2020-2021 budget components includes:

- Continued funding for K-12 curriculum work (totally funded by the Central Office) to include:
 - Revisions to grades 1-3 ELA and Math curriculum;
 - Review and revision of assessments for grades 4-8 in ELA and Math;
 - Support for HVRHS curriculum audits of and revisions to the ELA, Math and Social Studies curricula;
 - Audit of the K-8 Social Studies curriculum;
- Continued funding for the Rubicon Atlas and EduPlanet platforms (completely funded by the Central Office);
- Continued funding for my own professional development per past practice;
- Continued funding support for the services of Bena Kallick and Allison Zmuda in the area of personalized learning and social emotional awareness (costs shared between the Central Office and all Region One schools);
- Continued funding support for the services of Revision Learning to assist with consistent calibration of teacher evaluation (costs shared between the Central Office and all Region One schools).

I will also coordinate the budgets of any additional professional learning needs with regard to the Next Generation Science curriculum as well as for several digital platforms that include: the benchmark screening and progress monitoring tools, the Alpine program, and the SafeSchools program for State-mandated training. These expenses are borne exclusively by all Region One schools and are calculated based on the number of students or teachers who will be using these programs. There is a cost benefit to having these contracts negotiated on a Regional basis.

Curriculum

HVRHS Curriculum Audit - On December 10, the Department Chairs and one or two teachers from the Math, English/Language Arts and Social Studies departments met with Carly Weiland-Quiros and Sue Palma at EdAdvance for a one-day workshop to learn how to review and audit curriculum. The teachers learned how to use the EQuIP rubric as a yardstick against which to measure the quality of curriculum based on: 1) alignment with the CT Core Standards and CT Social Studies Frameworks and the rigor of expected learning outcomes, 2) the quality of instructional support provided to ensure that all students can learn; and 3) assessment quality. At the end of the day, the group discussed next steps for this work which may include additional support from EdAdvance for the Math and Social Studies departments. I will be meeting with each department in January to follow-up and then support the continuation of this work.

Assessment

DnA and FastBridge - I am working with a team of teachers to review these two assessment tools.

- DnA is an assessment bank that currently houses over 85,000 assessment items that have been vetted for alignment with the CT Core Standards and for rigor as measured by the Webb Depth of Knowledge standards. There are 17 different types of items to provide teachers with the opportunity to offer students a wide variety of questions/challenges when designing and assessment. Teachers are interested in this tool to help them “work smarter” while at the same time ensuring the administration of quality assessments.
- FastBridge is a universal screening tool that could be used in grades K-12 and that would replace the other screening tools that are currently in place. Teachers are interested in the FastBridge tool because it is less time intensive than the current assessment tools.

In January, we will be visiting Region 10 and Pittsfield, MA school district to discuss their experience with these two assessment tools.

Professional Learning

January 3 - Regional Professional Learning - This day will be devoted to working on Region One curriculum as follows:

- Grades 1-3 - Teachers will work on identifying priority standards for ELA and Math based on feedback from the curriculum audit recently provided by EdAdvance.
- Grades 4-8 - ELA, Math and Science Teachers will share their experiences with the revised curriculum that was introduced this fall and make suggestions for improvements. They will also work on assessment. The Social Studies teachers will be participating in a workshop about the Civic Life Project to introduce them to the documentary filmmaking process.
- Grades 9-12 - Teachers will be discussing the next steps of implementation of the Portrait of a Graduate into all aspects of curriculum and instruction.
- Specials:
 - K-8 World Languages - Teachers will work on revisions to their curriculum according to the recommendations of Jesse Gleason, Assistant Professor, Applied Linguistics & Spanish Coordinator, World Language Teacher Certification Program, Southern Connecticut State University.
 - K-8 PE and School Counseling - Teachers will continue to work on the K-12 Health curriculum based on the input they received from the professors from EastConn who worked with them in the fall.
 - K-8 Music - Teachers will continue to work on the K-8 music curriculum based on the input they received from Rich Wells, the music consultant who worked with them in the fall.
 - K-8 Art - Teachers will work with Christine Marco, an artist who will teach them about paper marbling.
 - Computer Teachers - This group will be working on the development of a K-12 Computer Science curriculum.
- Pupil Services and Title I - Teachers will work on a variety of topics including a review of the effectiveness of the current benchmark screening and progress monitoring programs and the other tools that they use to support student learning.

- School Counselors - This group will be working on a tiered-intervention process for K-12 students to strengthen the social emotional support provided to all students.

January 15 - This is an early release date for the K-8 schools. Per the agreement of the Region One Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC), this is a date when teacher groups from all of the Region One schools can come together and work on PD projects. The activities organized to date include teacher meetings regarding the areas that they have identified to support effective instruction in each of the content areas.

Staffing

Minority Teacher Recruitment Grant - In June 2019, the State passed legislation to support minority teacher retention and recruitment across the State. The bill requires the implementation of strategies using existing resources to ensure local and regional boards of education in the state hire and employ at least 250 new minority teachers and administrators each year beginning with the 2020-21 school year.

EdAdvance has offered its members the opportunity to apply for grants to help support this effort. Mary O'Neill and I worked together on an application and received \$3500 to support Region One efforts in this area. Dr. O'Neill will be using part of that funding to support awareness of teaching as a professional opportunity for all of our students and I will be using the funding to expand our recruiting efforts to ensure that they are as inclusive and welcoming to all teachers.

Career/Work Experience Program

With Thanksgiving break and snow days, this is a short reporting period for Dr. O'Neill.

Work with students and teachers has been increasing steadily. This includes one-on-one meetings with students about skills and idea development and presenting to class groups.

Meetings have also continued regarding the Future Bankers Program collaboration with Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board and Salisbury Bank and Healthcare Shadowing collaboration with Sharon Hospital and EdAdvance.

Dr. O'Neill has also been meeting with willing professionals in the local community to increase the breadth and depth of individuals to call upon for mentorship, guidance, and conversations with students.

Please click on the link below to read about all of Dr. O'Neill's great work:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10WZgHc7BdTizSLV3yn1ujdnpMcvA9VVriAfntM0vS6I/edit?ts=5dfd0f11>

English Learner Program Coordination

In December, Mrs. Huber spent part of the month preparing for the administration of the State-mandated LAS Links assessment. Her activities included attending the LAS Links Assessment training to learn about the updates for this year's state language assessment as well as a LAS Links IT webinar. The IT webinar allows her to coordinate with the all of the K-12 IT departments to ensure that the testing networks are set up in a timely manner this year. She has also started to set up the test sessions for each EL student in the region so testing can begin in January.

Mrs. Huber has continued working with the EL students at NCES and SCS according to the schedule and supports she has put in place. The two EL students from Sharon moved to Salisbury, so now she visits NCES and SCS on a daily basis to work with the EL students. She also continues to meet with the group of teachers at Kent on a biweekly basis to plan for the EL students there.

Mrs. Huber met with the Spanish teachers (Ruth Salas and Kristen Benson) at SCS to begin planning for an International Foreign Language Week Expo in early March. They plan to put together a short program of student performances to promote the world languages represented at the school. It is in the early stages of planning and they have some great ideas. They will meet again in January to continue planning. They are very excited about this program and hope to make it an annual event.