

CURRICULUM REVIEW

Interstate 35 Community School District

Curriculum Review

- Board Policy 602.1 Curriculum Development highlights the basic procedure and responsibility for reviewing and developing curriculum ... click [here](#) for BP 602.1
- We are in the process of developing a curriculum review cycle for the entire K-12 curriculum ... click [here](#) for a DRAFT copy
- The driving force behind everything we do with curriculum is research-based best practice
- In the past two school years we have been focusing on the following projects:
 - Rubicon Atlas curriculum alignment
 - Secondary math program
 - Elementary math professional development
 - Districtwide professional development on the Gradual Release of Responsibility instructional framework
 - K-12 Science team
 - K-12 Talented and Gifted team
 - TLC Curriculum Design Coach

Rubicon Atlas Curriculum Alignment

- Rubicon Atlas is a web-based program designed to fully articulate curriculum (horizontally and vertically) with identified standards
- Rubicon Atlas has been used in the district for five + years – but had not been actively updated in the past several years
- Reintroduced the entire teaching staff to Rubicon Atlas the fall of 2014
- Each teacher/department/grade level is entering/updating current curriculum into the system
- Each unit will have a consistent format and be linked to the Iowa Core or national standards for the discipline
- Eventually analysis will be completed highlighting areas of misalignment which in turn will lead to realignment of curriculum

Secondary Math Program

- All secondary math teachers began working with AEA Math Consultant Diane Royer in spring 2015
- Work continued throughout the summer with a focus on realigning the secondary math program with the Iowa Core
- Eventually all new materials were selected for grades 6-12 math and were implemented at the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year
- Continued professional development, including formative assessment results, for secondary math teachers throughout the 2015-2016 school year; this professional development will be ongoing

Elementary Math Professional Development

- The elementary selected a new math series two + years ago
- Throughout the 2015-2016 school year all elementary teachers have been going through professional development with AEA Math Consultant Diane Royer
- Emphasis has been on aligning lessons/units to the Iowa Core and moving further toward concept-based math
- This will further align what we're doing in elementary math with what we're doing in secondary math

Gradual Release of Responsibility

- The primary focus area of districtwide professional development during the 2015-2016 school year has been on the Gradual Release of Responsibility (GRR) instructional framework
- There are four primary components to GRR:
 - Focus Lesson (teacher-driven) - "I do"
 - Guided Instruction (teacher-driven) - "We do"
 - Collaborative Work (student-driven teams) - "We do it together"
 - Independent Work (student-driven) - "You do it alone"
- We have used Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) for collaborative work on GRR throughout the 2015-2016 year
- Will move deeper into the Gradual Release of Responsibility instructional framework districtwide in the coming years

K-12 Science Team

- A K-12 Science Team consisting of teachers representing each level, e.g., early elementary, upper elementary, middle school, and high school, was put together in the fall of 2015
- This Science Team is working with AEA Science Consultant Peggy Christensen on a two-year review process for K-12 science curriculum at I-35
- Much work is being done on moving toward the recently approved New Generation Science Standards, which in turn have become the science standards for the Iowa Core
- Professional development for anyone teaching science is being planned for the 2016-2017 school year
- Major movement toward activity, inquiry based science
- Implementation will begin after professional development is underway

K-12 Talented and Gifted Team

- We organized a Talented and Gifted (TAG) Team the fall of 2015 to review and redesign our K-12 TAG program
- The team, consisting of an elementary teacher, middle school teacher, high school teacher, and administrator has been participating in the year long Gifted Academy at Heartland AEA
- Work has been done on developing a vision for the new program; work is started on redesigning the actual K-12 TAG program with plans for professional development and implementation in 2016-2017

TLC Curriculum Design Coach

- I-35 was recently approved for participation in the Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) program beginning in 2016-2017
- Included in the approved plan was a new position entitled Curriculum Design Coach
- This Teacher Leader position will work directly with both administrators and teachers in the design and delivery of curriculum throughout the district

Final Remarks

- Curriculum is critically important – it is the backbone of the important work done in schools
- We are trying to develop systems that systemize the review and development of curriculum; these systems need to transcend whomever is sitting in the superintendent's or curriculum director's chair and become standard operating procedure
- Everything in curriculum should be based on research-based best practice
- Curriculum work is ongoing and takes substantive time – this process of updating curriculum is more of a marathon than a sprint ...