

## **District Administrator Report**

### **August 2009**

#### **Beginning Another School Year**

I am very excited to begin my seventh year serving the Evansville Community School District. I feel like we are gaining momentum as we identify ways we can work more effectively, consistently and cooperatively to identify how we can improve student learning, relationships and success.

#### **Summer Learning**

I attended a two day workshop sponsored by the UW-Madison Value Added Research Center July 28 & 29. Participants came from our area as well as the large urban districts of Chicago, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, and New York. The statistical measures and key factors that have been identified over the ten years of this research are now ready to be put to use by other districts and groups of districts. We should be able to use our MAP data and utilize REACh grant money and the RtI process to move us from where we fall now which I believe is pretty much in the center of average into an area of higher performance and acceleration of student learning. This link to the workshop materials is available if you want to take a look:

[www.varc.wceruw.org/summerworkshop](http://www.varc.wceruw.org/summerworkshop)

In particular, look at the powerpoint on quadrants. A copy of one of the key slides is attached to my report. By identifying the strengths of those who obtain the best results from students we can work with all staff to increase the use of those strengths.

I also attended the WASDA Legal Seminar July 29-31. Seminars included Labor and employment law update with information on changes in Family Medical Leave, Collective bargaining in a changing legal environment with reduced resource, Round table Q& A (Free legal advice on current issues), IDEA and Section 504, and finally a School Law Update reviewing key court decisions affecting schools across the country. This is always a great opportunity to learn from other superintendents as well as keep current on legal issues.

#### **Staffing**

As of this morning, we have completed all of our administrative and teacher hiring for the 2009-10 school year. This is our second year of a more formal and rigorous hiring process that focuses on district needs so we hire staff that compliment our strengths and can help take us to the next level. We set very high standards and involved staff in helping identify what qualities they were looking to add strength to their team. Given the tight budget process, all of the administrative and staff interview committee members deserve high praise for their commitment to the process, the contribution of their time and talent, and their persistence in finding the best. Thanks to all of you that participated!

#### **2009-10 Budget Update**

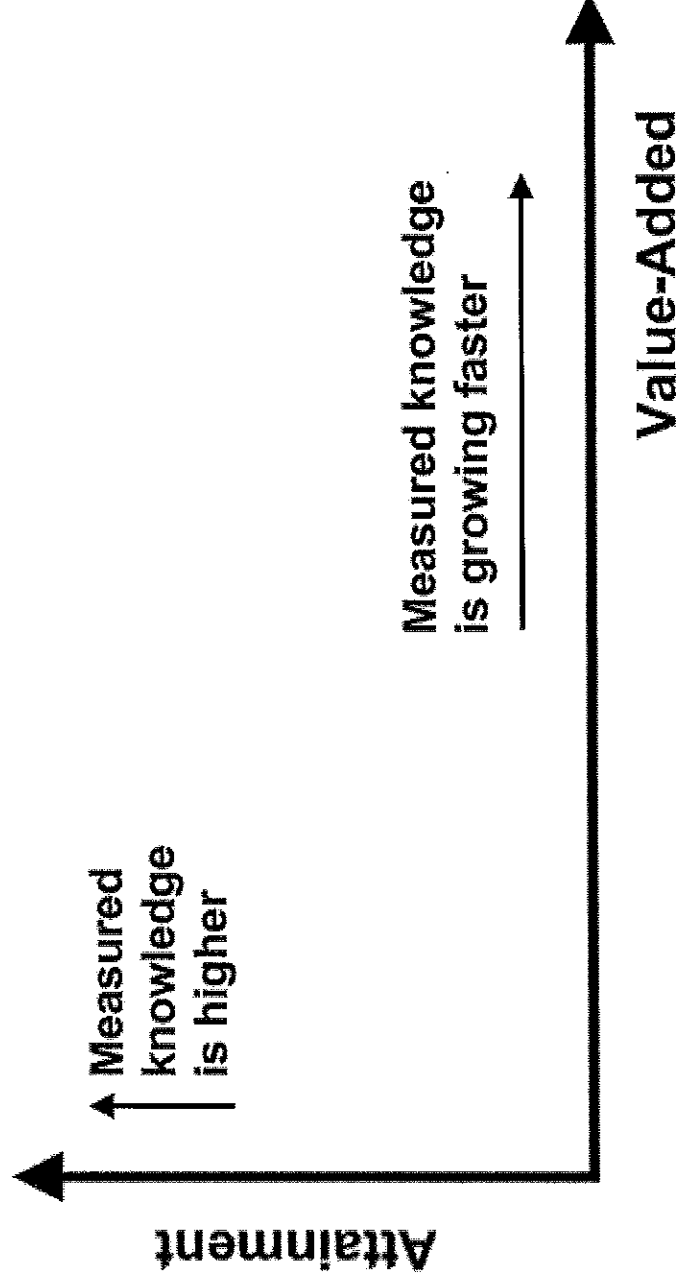
We are fortunate that in the state budget process we were one of a few districts that came through the process relatively unscathed. We will know for sure once we have our third Friday count. If we have fewer students than we based the budget on, we may need to do some mid-year belt tightening, but so far, so good. This is due to two factors. First we have a steady or slightly increasing student population, and we have relatively low property value behind each student which helps us in the aid formula. We have had to make cuts in some areas of the budget and were not able to add a part time reading position as we had hoped to the high school, but all in all we are ready to start the school year with maintenance projects complete, staff replaced and equipment ordered.

**Professional Development/Back to School August 26, 27, 28 & 31**

You are most welcome to attend any of the District back to school sessions or workshops during the last week of August. New staff will meet Monday, August 24 and Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. The Board President typically joins new staff and the administrative team for lunch on the 25<sup>th</sup>. If any other board members are interested in joining us, please let me know. Wednesday, August 26 will be a work day for all staff to get settled in their buildings and classrooms. Thursday will be professional development activities in each building. Friday will be a full day of district-wide professional development at the high school. Monday will be another day of building and cross building sessions. The draft schedule is in the board packet and you are welcome to attend any of the sessions. Staff members will register on-line for the sessions.

# Quadrant Analysis

- The mapping of value-added and attainment data in one graphic.



# Value Added vs. Attainment - Quadrants

Value Added vs. Attainment Quadrants

Low V-A High Att	Mid V-A High Att	High V-A High Att
Low V-A Mid Att	Mid V-A Mid Att	High V-A Mid Att
Low V-A Low Att	Mid V-A Low Att	High V-A Low Att

Attainment  
Average

Average

Value-Added

