



Currents

Mathematics Curriculum Pilot: Process Refinement

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Our curriculum mapping process continues to take shape as the mathematics pilot team documents the content, skills, and assessments used in daily instruction. In January, the team met with Susan Udelhofen to suggest process improvement strategies and clarify expectations around data entry. The mapping pilot will continue through the spring, and will include a program upgrade from Tech Paths to Curriculum Connector.

Race To The Top and Common Core

Wisconsin's Office of the Governor completed and submitted our state's Race To The Top (RTTT) application on January, 19, 2010. This 664 page document outlines the state's vision for educational improvement, including closing the achievement gap, increasing reading and mathematics performance, raising the state-wide graduation rate, and developing and implementing a longitudinal data system. Content and skill standards play a role in the application and in the state's vision for improvement.

Since 2006, the DPI has been engaged in a process to increase student performance expectations in our state through participation in the American Diploma Project and the Partnership for 21st Century Skills. DPI draft standards were released during the spring of 2009. In July 2009, Wisconsin became one of 48 states to join the Common Core standards group, and now is poised to be part of a (nearly) nation-wide standards adoption in mathematics and language arts. Personnel at the DPI have read the draft standards three times, and may be ready to sign on in the spring.

RTTT applications that include the adoption and implementation of the common core standards by August 2010 receive additional consideration in this competitive grant process. The K-12 common core draft standards are due to be released in March, 2010. To see them, visit common core at www.corestandards.org



"A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing."

— George Bernard Shaw

Technology Tip

Have you ever considered publishing a class anthology? Or of supporting students to create and publishing their own books? www.lulu.com is an on-line digital publishing site that allows students to create their own publications, sell them in a variety of forums, and keep 80% of the "creator revenue." Talk about authentic learning and teaching 21st century skills in context!

Staff Development: Working on Words?



Allen, Janet. Inside Words: Tools for Teaching Academic Vocabulary Grades 4-12. Portland: Stenhouse Publishers. 2007.

Cunningham, Patricia. What Really Matters in Vocabulary: Research-based Practices Across the Curriculum. Pearson Publishers. 2008.

Marzano, Robert J. and Pickering Debra J.. Building Academic Vocabulary. Teacher's Manual. Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. 2005.

Teacher Leadership

You know from personal experience that teachers are asked to be leaders every day in the classroom and on building and system-wide initiatives. Phi Delta Kappa International suggests these tips for teacher leaders:

Take the lead as a learner: Teacher leaders are asked to be change agents. Model the behavior you want others to follow. Continue and share your own learning.

Reframe problems: New projects always pose situations that can be viewed as problems or opportunities. See them as opportunities and find a way to improve your current situation.

Be Authentic: False pretenses are easy to identify, so be open, honest, and make the right decisions for students.

