



**November  
2015**

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# Sweetwater County School District #1

## Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Newsletter

**Academic vision:** *To implement the Instructional Model, which includes purposeful planning, quality instruction, resources, and assessment.*

Improving schools is complex and challenging; it cannot be done without strong leadership. The Sweetwater County School District Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Department is supporting professional development trainings by having Instructional Teacher Leaders, District Department Chairs and Instructional Coaches facilitate

instructional planning sessions. Our approach is to build capacity and rely on expertise within the district, transitioning from pockets of excellence to a district of excellence. The instructional leaders will focus on supporting the instructional model expectations for the 2015 – 2016 school year.




These expectations include:

- *Development of a collaborative culture of collective responsibility for our students' learning*
- *Roll out of the curriculum maps for Math and PE/Health content areas and alignment to the Wyoming Content and Performance Standards*
- *Development of quality lesson design and purposeful planning*



*Mission: To provide a quality education for all students.*



### 2015-2016 Professional Development Days

Quality instructional planning is this year's focus for all professional development days. Professional development dates for the school year are:

November 6, 2015---8:00am-11:30am

January 22, 2016-----8:00am-11:30am

April 1, 2016-----8:00am-11:30am

### New Subject Area Committees

During second semester, three Subject Area Committees (SACs) will be convened to curriculum map in the content areas of English Language Arts (ELA), Foreign Language, and Information Literacy. Each SAC member will have specific [roles and responsibilities](#).

For ELA, two teachers from grades K-6 will be selected, and at least one teacher per course for all secondary ELA content. Teachers will need to have strong content knowledge and be willing to act as liaison for their grade/content area. In Foreign Language and Information Literacy content, a representative team will be selected to cover grade spans K-12.

In order to fulfill the requirements toward Accreditation for continuous improvement, the District must address the Improvement Priority listed below:

*"Establish a systemic process, guided by the purpose and direction of the district, that will ensure horizontal and vertical alignment of curriculum, assessment, and instruction. This process should also inform support by resources, professional development, and evaluation systems that will frequently monitor implementation of all processes system-wide."*

After development and vetting of a long range plan to support curriculum mapping, assessment and instruction with the Community Curriculum Council, District Department Chairs, Administrators and our Superintendent, we continue to move forward on the implementation phase. For more information on the CLI Process, the CCC or the SAC committees, see the [CIA Curriculum System webpage](#).

**Any interested staff will need to submit a letter of interest to Wanda Maloney by December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 and also obtain their administrator's signature.**

Selected teachers will be required to be out of the classroom four days during the second semester as well as meet one week during the summer.



## *In the Spotlight...*

### *Professional Development*

Professional development took place Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Grade levels and departments met to focus on quality instructional planning this year. District Department Chairs, Instructional Teacher Leaders and Instructional Coaches are facilitating all sessions.



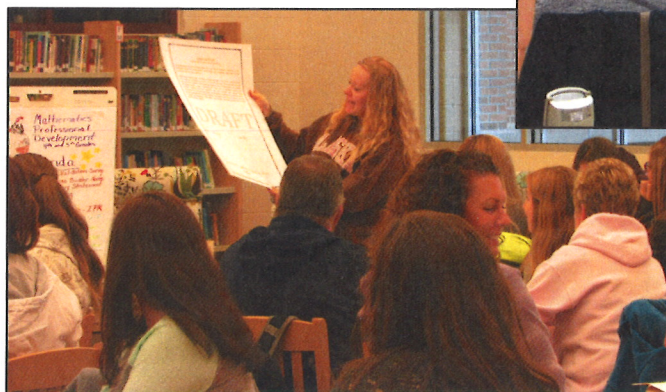
Kindergarten and first grade teachers worked collaboratively to share instructional strategies.



Second and third grade teachers were engaged in a book study, *Accessible Mathematics*, to gain a deeper understanding of math application.



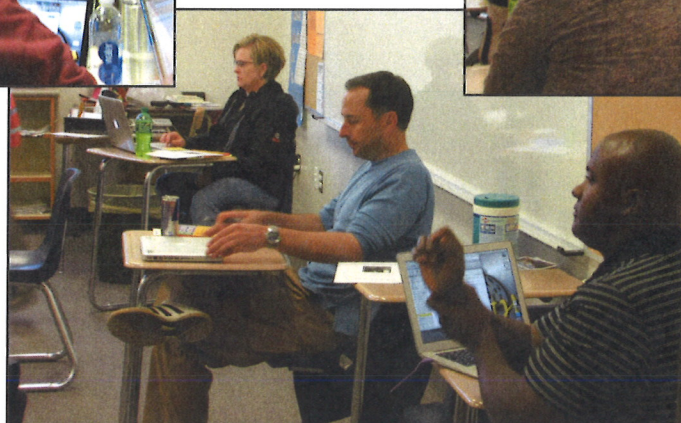




Fourth and fifth grade teachers shared their instructional planning resources.



Sixth through eighth grade teachers connected to support instruction in math and English Language Arts to support the transitional needs of students in our district.





Library Media Specialists discuss the implementation of keyboarding for all 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders.



All professional development sessions gave input on definitions of *a* mastery statement. This guides the work of the Community Curriculum Council.



Fine arts, performing arts, and PE/Health along with high school subject level ELA, CTE, Science, and Social Studies teachers utilized professional development time to develop and share instructional planning resources.





### Young Authors

The Young Authors Contest is once again upon us! All students are encouraged to participate in this wonderful experience.

Young Authors is open to all students in grades Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Fiction, non-fiction and poetry entries will be accepted. **The deadline for entries is February 12, 2016.** Judging at both the district and county level will be based upon the 6+1<sup>TM</sup> Trait writing model.

Please follow these guidelines when having students submit entries:

- Fiction and Non-fiction books may not exceed 4,000 words (over 3,000 words must be accompanied by a word count)
- Poetry may either be an epic poem or a collection of exactly five poems, and must include a table of contents
- Poems should not include the word poem in the title
- The author's name should not appear on the book
- All entries should be in book form no larger than 9" x 12"
- All entries should have a front cover with a title and a back cover, neither of which is part of the text
- A *Young Author Entry Form* must be included with each entry, either attached to the entry or in a library pocket card

At the district level there will be certificates and prizes for first, second, and third place winners at each grade level in each category. The district celebration will be held at Rock Springs Junior High School's Auditorium on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

At the county level, certificates will be awarded to one First Place and two Honorable Mentions per grade level, per category. The county celebration will be held at Rock Spring Junior High School's Auditorium on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Tammy Macy is the district coordinator for the contest. She can be reached at 352-3400 ext. 1259 or 389-2415 or by email [macyt@sw1.k12.wy.us](mailto:macyt@sw1.k12.wy.us)

For entry forms, rubrics and letters visit the CIA [Young Authors webpage](#).





### Wyoming School Comprehensive Plan

The Wyoming Department of Education, in cooperation with AdvancED®, has developed a comprehensive school plan template that meets multiple Wyoming, federal, and accreditation requirements. This plan is required for all schools annually to set a goal based on data.

The data review includes individual [Wyoming Accountability in Education Act Individual School Reports \(ISR\)](#), assessment data, needs assessments results, stakeholder survey data, and school self-assessment data. This goal may include growth, equity, achievement for K-8 schools and growth, equity, achievement, graduation rate or additional readiness indicators at 9–12 schools. The plans include a self-rating of the AdvancED® standards and indicators. Ratings are "Effective Practices", "Acceptable", "Needs Improvement". Following the rating, schools will write narratives on select indicators. The "Needs Improvement" indicator narrative will explain how the school is addressing this area of concern while the "Effective Practices" narrative will explain what the school is doing to earn this rating. Additional narratives are required for Title I schools and schools receiving a School Improvement Grant (SIG) to meet federal and state requirements.

All schools will also submit an improvement plan that includes goals, measures and methods (interventions) as well as strategies to implement this intervention. Progress on improvement plans are reviewed periodically and adjusted as needed. The plans are living documents and will be updated throughout the year.

Upon completion, Superintendent Kelly McGovern will review the plans, report to the school board and sign-off on all school plans. All Wyoming School Comprehensive Plans will be linked to the district webpage [SCSD#1 Improvement Plans](#) for review.

### Title I Services for 2015-2016

Title I designations for SCSD#1 schools have changed somewhat for the 2015-2016 school year. Desert View and Overland still qualify for school-wide Title I services. Desert School, along with Stagecoach, Walnut and Westridge all qualify for Targeted Assistance in which only specific students within those schools qualify for Title I services. For more information contact Suzanne Martin, Title I Coordinator, in the Title I office at the Central Administration building 342-3400 ext. 1241 or visit the [Title I webpage](#).

### Updated Teacher and Parent Handbooks

K-6 teacher and parent handbooks have been updated for the 2015-16 school year. Handbooks can be downloaded from the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment webpages:

[K-6 Report Cards & Teacher Handbooks](#)  
[K-6 Report Cards and Parent Handbooks](#)

Spanish versions of the parent handbook are also available [K-6 Boletas de Calificaciones & Manual para los Padres](#)

### NWEA MAP Reports Training

The Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment office will be offering training on NWEA MAP reports. The training will go over the most used reports as well as new interactive Achievement Status and Growth reports from NWEA.

The trainings will be held in the PDC room at the CAB on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:15pm to 3:45pm and Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:30am to 8:00am.

A brief overview of reports will be followed by time for questions.

### NWEA MAP Testing Window Closes in November

NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing ends Nov 20<sup>th</sup>. **No winter testing will be administered.** K-9<sup>th</sup> grade students are assessed in reading and math as required by the Early Literacy Plan and Bridges grant reports.



## November 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2	3	4	5	6 End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter  Professional Development (AM) Grade Prep (PM)	7	8
9 Curriculum Community Council Meeting Board Room 8-11:30	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 MAP Testing Ends	21	22
23	24	25 Thanksgiving Vacation	26 Thanksgiving Vacation	27 Thanksgiving Vacation	28	29
30						

## December 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Christmas Vacation	22 Christmas Vacation	23 Christmas Vacation	24 Christmas Vacation	25 Christmas Vacation	26	27
28 Christmas Vacation	29 Christmas Vacation	30 Christmas Vacation	31 Christmas Vacation			