

Sweetwater County School District Number 1

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Newsletter

In this issue: School Safety Efforts, Senior Scholarship Search, School Counseling Curriculum Update, Community Curriculum Meets, Perkins Grants, Art Educators Fall Conference, Ongoing Professional Development for 6th-12th Science Teachers, English Language Arts Training, Social Studies Resource Adoption Update, Young Author Competition, Using WY-TOPP Modular Assessments, Universal Screening Results, School Performance Ratings, and Reports, Supporting English Learners and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support Training

Sweetwater #1 Continues with School Safety Efforts

Sweetwater County School District #1 will nurture a positive learning climate and culture.

- Promote positive behaviors and relationships among students, staff, families and the community.
- Ensure schools are safe and secure.
- Proactively support physical, mental and emotional health.

Rock Springs Police Department School Resource Officers (SROs) led a professional development day for all of Sweetwater #1 Staff on Friday, October 19, 2018. All District staff attended the school safety training for half of the day with schools and departments scheduled with a morning or afternoon session.

This training supports one of the goals of the District Strategic Plan:

Topics for the training include:

- Role and responsibilities of the SROs
- Research and data
- The Safe2Tell Program
- See something, say something
- Staff empowerment (school safety is EVERYONE'S responsibility)
- Empowerment to be an upstander vs. a bystander
- Volumes of calls & issues, prevention & threat assessments
- Indicators of danger, pathways of violence, threats and warning signs
- Breakout sessions will occur for school and department staff to debrief

"Building relationships with students and staff involving law enforcement and first responders is one of the best practices that can assist staff in being proactive to address safety measures within our District." – Kelly McGovern, Superintendent of Sweetwater #1

"Rock Springs Police Department School Resource Officers make every effort to stay up to date on training and current protocols. Our officers collaborate with Sweetwater #1 to provide a safe learning environment for all students." – Dwane Pacheco, Rock Springs Police Chief



Sweetwater County School District #1 will create and foster academic success through partnerships with its schools, community and families.

- Increase student and family awareness of educational and career opportunities in Sweetwater County and Beyond
- Instill and reinforce employability skills and a drive for learning.
- Recognize and celebrate student, family, community and employee contributions.

Senior Scholarship Search

Rock Springs High School Counseling Center held an event in October the “Senior Scholarship Search” to help bring information to seniors preparing for college. During this time, students participated in a Coffee and Hot Chocolate Bar and were shared the following information:

- Registering with on-line scholarship searches
- Tips for applying for scholarships
- What to include in a “stand out” scholarship essay
- Resume resources for college admissions and scholarship applications
- The new scholarship link on the RSHS web page where we are listing scholarships and links to the information/applications

The event had a wonderful turn out and was a fun and informative time for everyone!

-Stacee Hanson, Secondary Counselor at Rock Springs High School



School Counseling Curriculum Update

School counselors have completed their draft curriculum map. The counselors reviewed current district-wide practices K-12 and correlated them with the American School Counselor Association standards to formulate a curriculum map. The map reflects local values and needs while aligning to national standards. The curriculum map will be used by all counselors and validated this year using the teacher validation survey.

To review the draft map:

[click here for link](#)

To provide feedback about the draft curriculum map:

[Click here for link](#)



Community Curriculum Council (CCC) Meets

The CCC met in October to provide input on many curriculum topics. The first was a review of the curriculum procedures and to review the advisement role of the committee. Also, the committee provided input into the Long-Range Plan for Sweetwater #1: [click here for link](#)

Liaisons for the Subject Area Committee (SAC) teams reported out about the tasks each SAC is working on and the progress they are making. The committee also reviewed assessment data and provided key conclusions about the WY-TOPP and ACT they were reviewing. District data is available: [click here for link](#) --remember to zoom in to review the data (command +).

Topics for the next CCC meeting in November includes moving forward with looking at Sweetwater#1 grading practices as well as reviewing progress of SAC and reviewing teacher leader Instruction Planning Resources (IPR's).

If you have questions or would like to provide input into the committee please contact the following members:

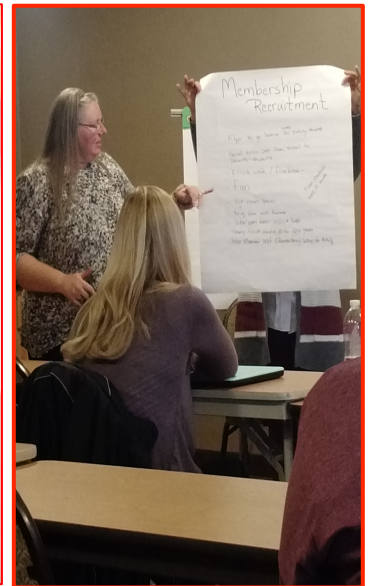
Erin Worthington, Amber Johnson, Sally Allen, Michael Moore, David Galindo, Katherine Chrisawn, Tonya Torpey, Brad Box, Lisa Plant, Kayci Arnoldi, Sandra DeStaffany, Ramona Wells Carrie Ellison, Ronald Urbin, Jared Hardman, Fred Hollingshead, Tammy Macy, Debbie Varras, Wanda Maloney, and Shannon Garrison

Perkins Grant:

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America

Rock Springs Junior High Family and Consumer Science (FACS) teachers, Greta Clark and Katie Nash traveled to Casper, WY for the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America conference on October 9th and 10th, 2018. The focus of this conference was to learn more about the organization and the implementation for our students with in our school district. During the conference they also had a guest speaker from Rachel's Challenge. Rachel Scott was the first victim in the Columbine Shooting. Their organization is worldwide and their goal is to present in every school across America.

-Greta Clark, Family Consumer Science Teacher



Wyoming Secondary Art Educators Fall Conference

Three high school Art Teachers from SCSD #1 recently attended the Wyoming Secondary Art Educators Fall Conference in Newcastle, WY. Rock Springs High School Art teachers Tania Szewczyk and Amanda Margrave, and Black Butte High School Art teacher Shari Kumer participated in professional development

workshops Sept. 27th-29th with Art teachers from all across Wyoming. The three are pictured here working on their colored pencil apples in a workshop by professional artist Eileen Nistler. They also had the opportunity to visit a glass blowing studio in the Black Hills. Other sessions included "Art Therapy: A Shift to Thinking About the Whole Child", presented by Jimmie Josephson and "Measuring and Building Creativity", presented by Dave Roswell.

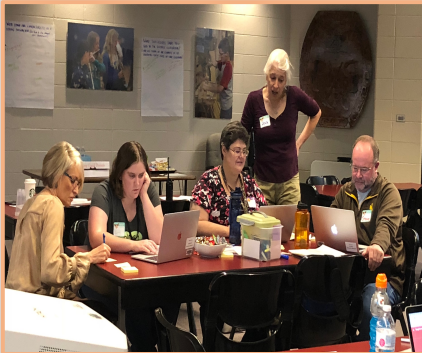
-Shari Kumer, Fine Arts District Department Chair

Ongoing Professional Development for 6-12 Science Teachers

Scientists from the Science and Mathematics Teaching Center University of Wyoming are providing professional development for 6th -12th grade science teachers in SCSD#1. With the new expectations for student learning in the Wyoming science standards, teachers are challenged to consider different teaching strategies when addressing these standards. Using ideas from the training, science teachers are learning how to use the "*Model of the Three Dimensions of Science Learning*" ([model link](#)) when designing lessons around phenomena. The three dimensions are Disciplinary Core Ideas, Cross Cutting Concepts, Scientific and Engineering Practices. This model helps guide teachers in how to use the three dimensions and how they interact during lesson development.

Phenomena and story lines were also investigated by teachers. Our teachers explored the phenomena of red sunsets using jars of water, milk, flashlight, red laser pointers and green laser pointers. The teachers documented their initial understanding by drawing a model on paper. After investigating, they had the opportunity to update their additional learnings on their models. Brainstorming for additional phenomena ideas and story lines were part of the training. When choosing phenomenon to integrate into units, teachers should consider the criteria of relevance, the complexity and the context.

Teachers planned lessons and will be implementing the lessons in the classrooms before the next meeting date. The lessons are designed around phenomena and story lines. The teachers will bring back an artifact and classroom experiences for the next training date. Additional training dates are in December, February and March.



English Language Arts Training

Second and Third grade teachers met on October 15th and 16th, 2018 to continue training on English Language Arts. During this timeframe teachers were reminded of the research and importance of reaching proficiency in reading by 3rd grade. They participated in the following:

- Examining the district ELA data, grade level and school data on WY-TOPP
- Identifying standards that students had met and not met in relation to WY-TOPP performance
- Sharing successes and notable practices impacting performance (Strong PLC's, use of ReadyGEN, and alignment to curriculum maps, use of ReadyGEN assessments, use of WY-TOPP modular as pre/posttest to select strategy groups, writing in an online format, and the importance of using Hattie's research to guide instructional practices)
- Setting goals
- Reconnecting with ReadyGEN resources and such as the Scaffolded Strategy handbook and Intervention handbook
- Planning time with their PLC to examine data and make instructional decisions
- **In addition, we celebrated the District ELA performance at 3rd grade ranking above the state average**

Continued trainings will occur:

Second Grade: January 21st, February 19th, and April 9th

Third Grade: January 22nd, February 20th, and April 10th



Social Studies Resource Adoption Update

Resource adoption finalists and online access are available for all teachers to provide feedback with regards to the resource adoption options. Feedback is important to inform members of the Social Studies SAC with input from teachers who will be using the resource. Thank you in advance for taking the time to pilot and provide valuable input for the resource adoption team. Please complete the surveys before November 20. Below are the links.

Grades K – 5, [click here](#)

Grades K – 5, [click here](#)

Grades 9 – 12, [click here](#)

Young Author Competition

The Young Author Competition is open to all students in grades K-12. Fiction, Non-Fiction, and Poetry entries will be accepted until the **January 24th, 2019 deadline**. For more information visit the SCSD #1 Young Author webpage:

[Young Author Link](#)

Using WY-TOPP Modular Assessments

The WY-TOPP modular assessments are optional online formative assessments that are available for grades 1-11 in ELA (reading and writing), Math and soon Science will be available. These assessments are on-demand and available throughout the school year. Modular assessments are short assessments that focus on a specific topic or skill e.g. ratios and proportional relationships and are fixed form. Modular blueprints and rubrics can be found by [clicking on the link](#).

The fixed form means that all students gets the same questions in the same order which makes for easy data analysis and data team discussions. According to district staff, modular assessments were a key element used in classrooms successful on the WY-TOPP summative. Also, take advantage of the modular writing assessments. The writing assessments are graded by the same artificial intelligence engine used to score the summative. Guidelines from WDE on modular use can be found by clicking here (enclosed).

Understanding Quantile Measures:

MetaMetrics has provided a new video about 'Understanding Quantile Measures' for Wyoming teachers, parents, and other interested persons. This presentation addresses: What Quantile Measures are; Quantile skill and concept measures; how Quantile Measures can be used; tools and research-based resources for using Quantile Measures.

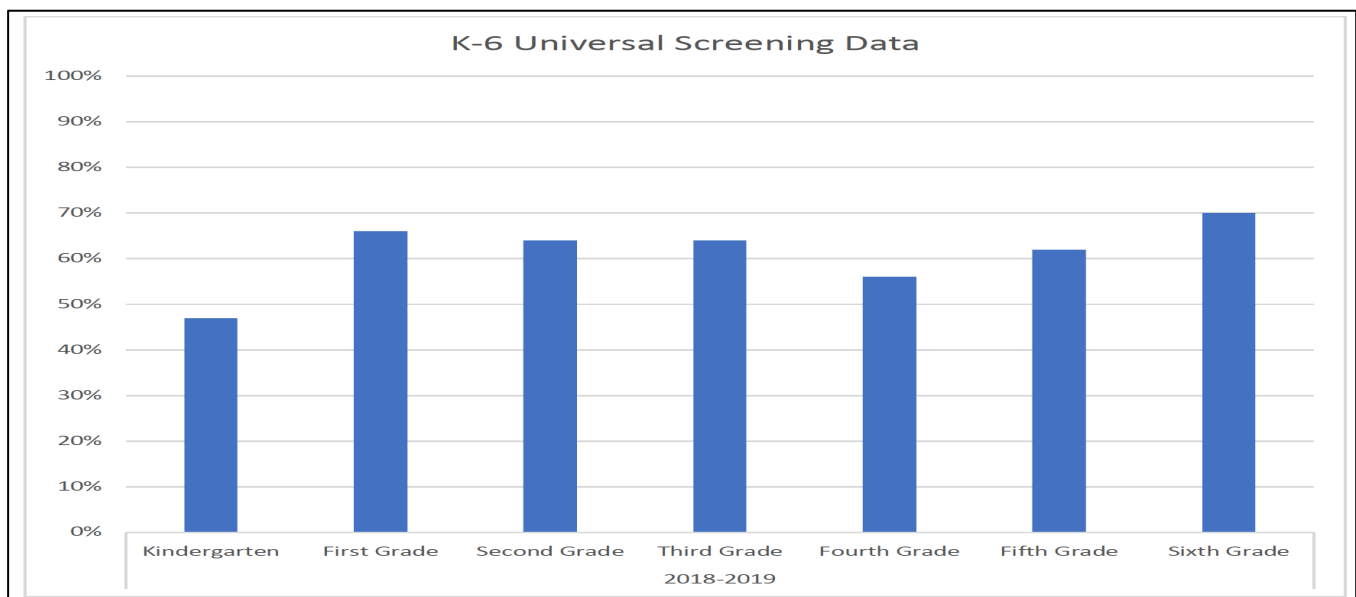
[Please click here for new video](#)

Results from the modular assessments will be available immediately after students complete the assessment. Participating in modular assessments can help instructors inform instruction and help students and teachers gain familiarity with the online test platform, question types and tools. To get results for special groups of students, please send lists of students/PLC groups/after-school groups/intervention groups/enrichment groups etc... to Debbie Varras. If you need support administering the modules or interim assessments, please contact the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Office.

Universal Screening Results

Fall Universal Screening took place during September 10th-28th, 2018. This graph represents district scores K-6. Additional testing information and assessment data can be found on the SCSD #1 website. [Universal Screening Link](#)

- Kindergarten had the lowest percentage of students that were at benchmark or above, however the trend is that Kindergarteners make the most gains.
- Fifth Grade had 15% more students at benchmark or above this fall as to compared to last fall.
- Sixth Grade had 70% of students performing at benchmark or above.



School Performance Ratings and Reports

Sweetwater County School District #1 School Performance Reports have been released from Wyoming Department of Education. The new report includes state and federal accountability measures linked to the Wyoming Accountability in Education (WAEA) information and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

SCSD#1 2017-2018 School Rankings:

Exceeding Expectations

- Sage Elementary School
- Rock Springs Junior High

Meeting Expectations

- Desert Middle School
- Farson-Eden Elementary
- Farson-Eden High School
- Overland Elementary
- Pilot Butte Elementary
- Stagecoach Elementary
- Walnut Elementary

Partially Meeting Expectations

- Desert Elementary School
- Desert View

Not Meeting Expectations

- Eastside Elementary
- Farson-Eden Middle School
- Northpark Elementary
- Westridge Elementary
- Rock Springs High School

To view SCSD#1 school performance report, please [click here for report](#)

Under the WAEA requirements, schools are rated as Exceeding Expectations (blue), Meeting Expectations (green), Partially Meeting Expectations (yellow) and to Not Meeting Expectations (orange). The WAEA rating and detailed reports are used by schools to write school improvement plans. The schools will set specific goals and write targeted action plans to support increase student achievement and success. School improvement plans will be submitted to WDE and published on the website on February 1, 2019.

Under the federal accountability model (ESSA), each school receives one or more of the following identification levels for support: *Comprehensive Support & Improvement (CSI)*, *Targeted Support & Improvement (TSI)*, *Additional Targeted Support & Improvement (ATSI)*, and/or *Unclassified*. A designation of CSI is related to overall performance in Title I schools or a four-year, on-time graduation rate of less than 67% in any school. TSI and ATSI are related to the performance of subgroups. This year, Wyoming schools have been rated as either Identified or Not Identified. For a comparison between WAEA and ESSA, please [click here for link](#).

All SCSD#1 schools met the 95% participation rate required by WAEA. If any school does not meet the participation requirement, the school will automatically receive a “not proficient” rating. For additional information about accountability, please [click here for implementation Handbook](#)

Every student deserves a *great* teacher, not by chance, but by **design**.

Supporting English Learners all day, every day:

Teach, Model, Practice, Apply-All teachers are English Learner teachers

Teacher Resources for English Learners:

The WIDA website (<https://www.wida.us/>) provides a number of great resources for teachers supporting English Learners. The website provides information on the “can do descriptors” under Standards and Instruction, which provide teachers with examples of performance for each language acquisition level.

Make learning visible:

Incorporating more visuals and nonlinguistic representations can greatly support all learners, especially our English Learners. By utilizing the vocabulary from ReadyGEN, Springboard, or content areas teachers can create/show a visual representation (picture) to support building background, schema, and context for students.

Pre-teach whenever possible:

Any opportunity to preview the material for an English Learner will support the student to better understand, when it is presented to the whole class.



Collaboration and Communication with the EL Teacher:

- Make time for conversations to support your students
- Share strategies that have been effective
- EL teacher is a great resource for supporting Language Acquisition

Use sentence frames to give students practice with academic language:

- All students need practice with academic language
- Example: I agree with __ (character in the story) __ or I disagree with __ (character in the story) __.
- Sentence frames can be as simple or as complex as you make them to support the needs in your classroom

Supporting ALL students during WYTOPP Testing:

In using interim assessments, remember to review the individual needs of students and the accommodations that are allowed during the assessment. Students who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) may have specific accommodations for testing.





Professional Learning Communities at Work:

All teachers and schools across our District, including our EL teachers are focused on PLC's, Professional Learning Communities. Our EL teachers will meet as an English Learner PLC, but will also continue to be a part of grade level and department PLC's as well.

Celebrating our students-WY-TOPP Assessment:

[Click here for Assessment Link](#)

- At the district level, EL students performed higher on the WY-TOPP ELA assessment than the state average in the following grade levels; third, fourth, fifth, and seventh.
- At the district level, EL students performed higher on the WY-TOPP Math assessment than the state average in the following grade levels; third, fourth, seventh, eighth, and ninth.
- At the district level, EL students performed higher on the WY-TOPP Science assessment than the state average in the following grade levels; fourth and eighth.
- Overland performed higher than the state average in both ELA and Math at both the third and fourth grades.
- Sage performed higher than the state average in both ELA and Math in third grade.
- Stagecoach performed higher than the state average in ELA, Math and Science in the fourth grade and Math at the third grade.
- Westridge performed higher than the state average in Math and Science at the fourth grade.
- Pilot Butte performed higher than the state average in ELA at the fifth and sixth grade levels.
- Rock Springs Junior High School performed higher than the state average in ELA and Math at the seventh grade and Math and Science at the eighth-grade level.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support Training

Sweetwater County School District #1 will nurture a positive learning climate and culture.

- Promote positive behaviors and relationships among students, staff, families and the community.
- Ensure schools are safe and secure.
- Proactively support physical, mental and emotional health.

The Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) Leadership conference: Celebrating Positive & Safe Learning Environments was held in Chicago, Illinois on October 4 and 5. Teachers, counselors, and administrators from the district attended the conference in alignment with our Strategic Plan:

Sessions were organized by strands and supported schools that are in initial through advanced implementation of PBIS at both the elementary and secondary levels. Staff members attended classes on PBIS tier 1 foundations, classroom implementation, tier two/three systems and practices, equity as well as, secondary implementation.



November 2018

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Social Studies- Resource Presentation 8:00am-4:30pm	8 Social Studies- Resource Presentation 8:00am-4:00pm Teacher Leaders 4:00pm-5:30pm	9	10
11	12 Board Meeting 6:00pm	13	14 CCC Meeting 8:00am-11:30am	15 STEM Meeting 4:00pm-5:30pm	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Happy Thanksgiving	23	24
25	26	27 Social Studies Adoption 8:00am-4:00pm	28	29	30	