

Board Update Curriculum Update

As you know, this year it was decided to purchase and use the curriculum from the curriculum collaborative sponsored by Education Service Center Region 2. Last year, personnel from the service center provided information and training on the process they were going to use in developing the curriculum for the Texas Education Service Center Curriculum Collaborative (TESCCC). The process and details to be used appeared to be something that would greatly benefit our teachers and students.

Last December, TESCCC only had 5 service centers in the collaborative. At this time they have 9 and are working on a tenth one. There are 20 service center regions in Texas. The potential for greatness is still seen in this product.

There have been a number of setbacks involved in the process of receiving the curriculum. Beeville ISD set up the staff development for teachers at the beginning of the year so that they could review and start to use the new curriculum immediately. Unfortunately, the service center got the curriculum documents prepared very late and we barely had time to make copies and distribute them to the teachers.

Through the first 2 months of school, the consultants, principals and I have continued to direct the teachers to use this curriculum. The curriculum for the secondary grade levels seems to be much better than the curriculum for the elementary grade levels. However, the elementary curriculum is useful and has allowed us to “rethink” some of the areas in which we have weaknesses.

In late October, a decision was made that the teachers really needed some time to work on the curriculum and look at the whole year. There were concerns about gaps and weaknesses that might not be covered and we felt we needed to use the expertise of our teachers to review this. Time was provided for groups of teachers in each grade level and the four core areas to work together, either with a substitute provided for their classes or during early release days, to review and make modifications to the curriculum. In addition, most grade levels also reviewed and revised their benchmark tests to align with the curriculum. With the receipt of the curriculum so late, some benchmark tests were cancelled because we did not have time to make the needed changes.

This extra time has allowed Beeville ISD, we believe, to get back on track. The comments of the teachers, principals and consultants after these days have been overwhelmingly positive. We still have some work to complete in a few areas, such as first grade math and language arts and fourth grade social studies, and we are working on schedules to do that.

This process has made us realize that in order to get to Exemplary status, we do need to change things. The TESCCC curriculum may not be perfect yet, but the service center and the staff of Beeville ISD are working to make improvements so that we can continue to “Catch the Spirit” to greatness.

Submitted by Nancy Jones
November 2006