

# Memo

To: Michael Robey, Ed.D. Superintendent  
From: Barbara Dahly, Director of Teaching and Learning  
Cc: Board of Education  
Date: April 8, 2013  
RE: Department Update

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➤ **District Improvement Planning**

The District Improvement Planning (DIP) team will conduct ‘**A Meeting of the Whole**’ on **Thursday, April 11, 2013** at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the District 89 Vision statement. The district team continues to work on indicators and research based effective practices that are foundational to supporting improvement processes which include, Indicator CII1, ‘The district and schools have an aligned vision/mission statement that supports a learning environment which is emotionally safe and conducive to learning.’ (For more information, please refer to the power point in Drop Box.)

➤ **Next Generation Science Standards**

A workshop is being offered on **April 30, 2013** at the Fermi Lab for Science teachers and administrators on curriculum development implementing the **Next Generation Science Standards** which are scheduled to be released in April. District 89 will be sending administrator and teacher representatives to this workshop to specifically work on science curriculum development. All work done by the committee at this workshop will be shared electronically. (For more information, please refer to the flyer in Drop Box.)

➤ **STEM Learning Opportunities**

I will be meeting with the Coordinator for Engineering and Technology to discuss summer STEM learning opportunities for District 89 students. We are exploring the possibility of bringing ‘**Waterbotics**’ to District 89 schools. Students discover science and engineering while building programmable robots to accomplish underwater missions. ‘**Waterbotics**’, an innovative learning experience, is an engaging activity that involves students to solve real-world problems and attracts interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

➤ **Connected Math Curriculum Development for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers**

The second early release Tuesday SIP day will be held on **April 9, 2013**, focusing on developing mathematically proficient students in grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. The standard insight tool will be utilized to align the *Connected Math* curriculum to the Common Core State Standards in mathematics (8<sup>th</sup> grade). Professional development on the relationship between content and process in mathematics will continued to be explored for grades K-8<sup>th</sup> through the use of teacher led Math Talks. It is the combination of content and process that gives students mathematical power. Teachers are expected to use instructional practices that provide opportunities for students to experience both on a regular basis. It is critical that the curriculum, instruction and assessment deeply align. **Curriculum redevelopment in K- 8<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics aligned to the CCSS is in the planning stages for the month of May and June.** As we continue to work towards developing the math curriculum, we are examining the match between curriculum, instruction and assessment in regard to the content, the context, and the cognitive demand of student learning.

➤ **Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS)**

PBIS School representatives (Social Workers, Internal Coaches from each building) will be attending the **Middle School Forum on April 9, 2013**, with sessions on:

- Bullying Prevention
- Analyzing Data, Progress Monitoring Outcomes and Action Planning
- Involving Junior High Leaders in the PBIS Implementation
- Universal Behavior Screening
- Behavior Lessons Based on Data and Involving Parents in the PBIS Process
- SAIG: Social / Academic Instructional Group

Information will be shared with school teams and staff members with plans developed for implementation

The next PBIS meeting of Internal Coaches will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup>. A plan to disseminate the information will be discussed at the meeting.

PBIS Internal Coaches and I met individually to discuss specific school data, Phases of Implementation, Multi-Tiered Action Planning, Team Implementation Checklists and Self-Assessment Survey plans. Planning resources and Tier 1 information can be located at <http://www.pbisillinois.org/> the official website of the Illinois PBIS network. At the April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting we will continue reviewing the process of “emerging” level of PBIS implementation, working towards building a solid foundation at the Tier 1 Universal level. This meeting was followed by a District level meeting addressing the Tier 1 supports in place. The processes of T-chart implementation (Classroom/Office managed behaviors), COOL TOOL implementation district wide, beginning Check In- Check Out support for students and reward systems for K-8<sup>th</sup> grade students that make a difference, were discussed.

➤ **WCMI Mathematics Assessment Resource Service (MARS)**

MARS testing was completed at Garfield, Irving, Lincoln and Roosevelt on March 28, 2013.

Tests will be delivered to West 40 on April 8<sup>th</sup> for scoring by a trained team of teachers from the West Cook Math Initiative (WCMI).

This test, aligned to the Common Core State Standards, is designed to assess whether a student understands when to use a particular mathematical skill, which mathematical tools the student chooses to solve problems, how well the student communicates their thinking, and how the student uses the calculations to make decisions. The test will expose District 89 students to mathematical tasks at a high level of cognitive demand, and build teachers’ ability to anticipate, recognize, and respond to students’ mathematical misconceptions.

➤ ***Preschool for All Parent Workshops***

Workshops with information on transitioning from Pre-K to Kindergarten, Child Development and PFA registration information for the 2013-2014 school year will take place on the following dates:

- Irving School on April 15, 2013 at 3:00-4:00
- Emerson School on April 22, 2013 at 3:00-4:00
- Lincoln School on April 29, 2013 at 3:00-4:00
- Garfield School on May 6, 2013 at 3:00-4:00