

Date: May 1, 2023

To: LPSD School Board Members

From: Nicole Metzgar and Kate Cornell

Re: May Curriculum Report

Professional Development

C3 Creating Cultural Competence, Summer 2023: Alaska teachers participate alongside Elders, culture bearers, local youth, and teacher-peers in cultural immersion and supportive gatherings. There will be culture camps in both Igiugig and Port Heiden and other villages in the region. Here is a link to learn more about the eligibility and to apply: [C3: Creating Cultural Competence](#)

New Hire PD Support 2023: We would like to send experienced LPSD personnel to sites in August to support newly hired teachers with on-the-ground and face-to-face training. We also would like to better support our Non Certified Emergency Hire teachers with additional job training. Details and logistics are being discussed. The New Hire Induction will begin in Anchorage on August 17th and 18th and continue the following Monday and Tuesday on site. This will allow new hires to have more time on site to prepare their living spaces and get to know the community before inservice begins.

Curriculum

FINISHED THIS YEAR:

Experiencing Out: 18 projects were completed this school year from students enrolled in 6 different sites. These are pre-covid numbers. Curriculum is very happy with these numbers.

Advanced Online Courses: 17 students from 5 different sites enrolled in 41 college courses this school year for a total of 115 college credits.

End of Level Writing Prompt: Nicole Metzgar coordinated the writing prompts and scoring teams as part of her Curriculum Duties this year. She has been doing this for the past 10+ years but under a different position and did not think to add it to the curriculum report until very recently. We had 21 LPSD teachers score 86 End of Level Prompts for writers in Levels 6-10. 16 were scored developing and 70 were scored proficient or advanced. LPSD level 4-5 writers went through a Portfolio process instead of the Prompt process to show proficiency for the first time this school year.

Within a subsistence calendar several teachers and students find the End of Level Prompt Assessment to be stressful and time consuming and superficial. While the old Prompt process for levels 4-10 ensures a consistency of proficiency across our district, it is something I believe that can not be sustained within our Subsistence Calendar for LPSD writers in the middle levels (levels 4-8). The Portfolio process gives students and teachers more creativity and freedom to incorporate science and social studies and local events into writing levels. A recent survey will let us know how many LPSD teachers are excited or indifferent or unhappy about this shift.

IN PROGRESS:

End of Level Assessment Revisions: The Assessment Committee has been working diligently to revise and update any questionable issues, errors or typos that are reported. We predict and are prepared for many revisions the first year, and minimal corrections in the following years.

HS/College Dual Credit: Conversations are ongoing and as of May 4th at 9:02AM, this policy is still in draft mode.

End of Year Surveys: We are collecting and sharing feedback as it comes in from the following surveys sent to staff:

1. 2023 Professional Development
2. 2023 New Hire Professional Development
3. 2022-2023 Secondary Math
4. 2023 New Writing Portfolio Survey
5. 2023 New Science Curriculum Survey.

Cultural Responsiveness: Here are some resources to read more about cultural responsiveness in Alaska:

1. "Alaska Standards for Culturally Responsive Schools." UAF . [Link to site.](#)
2. Culture in the Classroom Standards, Indicators, and Evidences for Evaluating Culturally Responsive Teaching [Link to PDF](#)
3. [Link to LPSD's Culture and Curriculum Meeting Notes](#)

New Hire Training Handbook: Kate Cornell will update these informational handbooks in May. They will include information about each of LPSD school sites, how to do food orders, what's available on site, internet/phone providers, air taxi information and, most importantly, what makes an effective rural Alaska teacher. Please let her know if you have things you feel should be included in an informational handbook for our new teachers.

UPCOMING NEXT YEAR:

Summer 2023 Assessment Committee Work: The Assessment Committee has been offered the opportunity to finish updating and creating End of Level assessment items over the 2023 Summer. [Assessment Creation Opportunity Link](#)

Traditional LPSD Language Classes: ANE will be offering virtual language classes via zoom to LPSD students next school year. A day and time has not been established, but they are working with the district to make sure they are able to meet the greatest number of students.

RECOMMENDING FOR THE FUTURE:

Technology Committee: Technology is a subject that needs updating more often than other subjects. It is time to have a committee take a close look at the standards and make updates as needed.

Reading LV 10 and Writing LV 10: Curriculum Directors recommend the standards in these levels be rewritten. They currently are the same as LV 9 Reading and LV 9 Writing Standards. We would like to see these new standards reflect local literacy skills LPSD graduates need to master in order to be successful after high school (Ex: scholarship essays, resume writing, job application essays, etc.). Local input and insight should be included.

Distance Classes

We continue to look for ways we can improve the distance learning experience for our students. Mr. Meneskie and Mrs. Nikolaus will be returning in the fall to teach for another year, and I am grateful for their experience and professionalism as we navigate this coming year of online classes.

As always, feel free to contact Kate Cornell at kcornell@lpsd.com (907.571.7020), or Nicole Metzgar at nmetzgar@lpsd.com (907.781.3201). Thanks for all you do!