
Board of Education Report - December, 2013

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Assessment

- Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium
 - Administration begins in 2014-2015
 - Practice tests are now accessible
 - Teacher work sessions underway
 - Format of questions involves deeper thinking and problem solving
 - Writing rubrics are available
 - Classroom resources available
- Data reports pertaining to specific areas of achievement and identified groups of students have been shared at the administrative team level to assist principals in targeted measures per building.
 - WKCE
 - PALS

Curriculum

- Curriculum work sessions are in progress for English Language Arts and Mathematics. Outcomes for the sessions include:
 - Examining the SBAC and determining how to replicate skills in the classroom.
 - Reviewing and finalizing benchmarks.
 - Determining and developing grade level benchmark assessments for ELA and math.
 - Comparing the SBAC writing rubrics to district rubrics and making modifications to district documents as needed.
 - Ongoing development of instructional tools focused on CCSS units.
- “25 Minute Recharge” = This series of monthly informal conversations focuses on things that make a difference for students and teachers. Attendance is voluntary and each topic is offered a couple of times. The December sessions focused on the work of Mike Schmoker. He details how careful attention to reading, writing, and discourse are essential at every grade level and subject area to foster sound instruction and boost achievement.
- Two ad-hoc committees continue their work:
 - Technology Skill Expectations for Students = identifying proficiency expectations by grade level.
 - Citation of Sources = recommendations for methods for citing sources by grade level