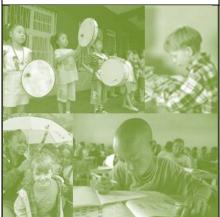


-SCHOOL SUPPORT REPORT-

A monthly update from MDE on best practices for school success



QUICK LINKS

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March 2012

DIVISION OF SCHOOL SUPPORT

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Flexibility Waiver

The Minnesota Department of Education's NCLB waiver request was approved by the U.S. Department of Education and announced on February 9, 2012. The waiver was developed using intensive outreach and input from experts, policymakers, parents, educators and community members to ensure the new system better addresses the specific needs of Minnesota students.

The new accountability system is based on multiple measures of reliable data to identify schools for recognition, accountability and support. In addition it will provide a clearer focus on schools most in need of intensive intervention strategies and support and will move the state forward in the goals of closing achievement gaps and improving educational outcomes for all students.

For more information, <u>visit the NCLB Waiver web page</u>. The materials include a slide presentation and a FAQ document.

Submit any questions about Minnesota's waiver to mde.nclbwaiver@state.mn.us.

NWEA data: New 2011 Norms

NWEA has released new 2011 norms, which may affect some site student achievement goals set for the 2011-12 school year using RIT score growth targets as the measure (goals with a cut score measure are not affected). In addition, it has come to our attention that this release was not known by every district during the goal setting and approval process, and IF data reports were run **before** August 1, 2011, the validity of the goal may be compromised.

The NWEA 2011 RIT Scale Norms: Frequently Asked Questions document states the following:

"It is important to understand that the change from 2008 to 2011 norms has no bearing on your students' data. The growth your students made last school year has not

changed. What has changed is the *norming comparison*. And because the methods for calculating the 2008 and 2011 norms are quite different, it is inappropriate to compare results using the 2008 norms to those using 2011 norms."

Therefore, any goal values set using NWEA data reported with 2008 norms will need to be updated internally with data based on 2011 norms so that comparing to future results will be a valid comparison.

Visit the NWEA website to view resources and the 2011 Norms Video Series (scroll to bottom) to get a sense for how the new norms and methodology are different.

(http://www.nwea.org/support/article/norms-study-resources)

For information on the Division of School Support or to request assistance, please contact staff at MDE.schoolsupport@state.mn.us.

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QUALITY COMPENSATION FOR TEACHERS (Q COMP)

New Networking Topic!

This session, Walking Through the Teacher Observation Process from August to May, will focus on the teacher observation process from the beginning of the school year to the end. Participants will share with each other and learn about the following program practices related to teacher observation:

- Annual training of all staff members and teacher observers.
- The observation cycle, including pre- and post-observation conferences, and ongoing coaching.
- Meaningful inter-rater reliability activities.
- Teacher observation data for planning staff development.

Time will be dedicated to examine current research, evidence-based practices and recent legislation in order to inform participants regarding strategies to improve their teacher observation processes.

Save these dates for the next networking sessions:

Friday, April 20, 2012	Linking Learning Teams with Teacher Observation:
	Collaborative Practices for Increased Teacher Effectiveness
Friday, May 11, 2012	What Works: Fidelity of Program Implementation

These full-day sessions are held at the MDE. Lunch is on your own, but there is no charge to the participant. The facility has vending machines and is very close to many restaurants. All sessions include participant engagement and collaboration and include time for participants to connect with MDE staff and ask questions concerning their own Q Comp programs. Visit the MDE calendar for registration and details for this session and for future sessions and topics.

Q Comp and the Minnesota Teacher Evaluation Model

Q Comp districts may be wondering how their teacher observation/evaluation systems will be affected by the new Minnesota teacher evaluation model. The MDE Teacher Evaluation Work Group (responsible for determining the requirements, the state model and other expectations for the new teacher evaluation legislation) began their work in December 2011. This group meets

monthly to develop a comprehensive state model that will go into effect during the 2014-15 school year. We are encouraging school districts to wait before making any changes to their teacher evaluation systems until further guidance from the work group is determined and released publicly. Once finalized, MDE staff will provide assistance to Q Comp districts and schools in transitioning to the new model. To view the Teacher Evaluation Work Group membership roster, meeting schedule and documents distributed during past meetings, visit the MDE Teacher Evaluation Work Group web page.

For information on Q Comp or to request assistance, please contact staff at the following email address: mde.q-comp@state.mn.us.

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ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS (AYP) SUPPORT

MAASFEP Spring Conference

The Minnesota Association of Administrators of State and Federal Education Programs (MAASFEP) will host its annual Spring Conference on March 22-23, 2012. Join fellow educators involved in state and federal compensatory programs for this two-day conference exploring numerous and timely topics. Staff from MDE will be present on both days of the conference and will host sessions on the ESEA Spring Budget Amendments, the latest on the NCLB Waiver for Minnesota and preliminary plans for next year. In addition, MAASFEP will have over twenty breakouts and keynotes focused on effective instructional strategies for struggling learners. Dr. Leonard Sax and Dr. Tim Rasinski are the featured speakers at the conference. To find detailed information and links to register for the conference, visit the MAASFEP website.

For information about Adequate Yearly Progress, <u>visit the AYP Statewide System of Support</u> <u>web page</u>.

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TURNAROUND SCHOOLS

Professional Learning Communities

The Professional Learning Community (PLC) is a notable practice for improving student achievement. The collaborative structure of the PLC brings small groups of teachers together weekly to engage in these activities:

- Discuss student and teacher work.
- Identify instructional needs.
- Design quality formative assessment materials.
- Review and respond to data.

Effective PLCs develop a common vision about student and teacher learning, share leadership at the site, and use protocols to support professional learning and instructional improvement. In his book *Results*, Mike Schmoker states that the PLC is the "surest, fastest path to instructional improvement" (Schmoker, 2006, p. 106).

There are abundant resources describing PLCs and their subsequent impact on learning. Listed below are two books that provide a guide to the structures and processes used to develop and sustain effective PLCs.

- The Practice of Authentic PLCs by Daniel R. Venables, 2011, Corwin Press.
 - Venables wrote this book, "...to help real schools build authentic PLCs with real faculties." (p.viii). While elaborating on the essential tasks of a PLC, he provides solid examples and activities for the reader who is looking to improve the current practice of PLCs.
- Leading Professional Learning Teams: A Start-Up Guide for Improving Instruction by Susan E. Sather, 2009, Corwin Press.
 - This book provides background information on the research base for PLCs as well as models for implementing PLCs.

View the <u>Turnaround Schools web page</u> for more information.

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HIGH-QUALITY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Update: Principal Evaluation

The Minnesota model for principal evaluation was developed in response to legislation passed in the 2011 Special Session. Provisions in legislation require that all principals be evaluated annually and set criteria to be met for both the substance and the process of the evaluation. Legislation established a working group of stakeholders to develop a state model for principal evaluation. The work group has developed a comprehensive model that meets the requirements established in statute. The legislative report, *Measuring Principal Performance in Minnesota*, identifies components of the state model including performance levels and indicators, rubrics and evidences, and processes for evaluation. To view a copy of the report, visit the MDE Principal Evaluation Work Group web page.

Update: Teacher Evaluation Work Group

Districts may be wondering how their teacher observation/evaluation systems will be affected by the new Minnesota teacher evaluation model. The MDE Teacher Evaluation Work Group (responsible for determining the requirements, the state model and other expectations for the new teacher evaluation legislation) began their work in December 2011. This group meets monthly to develop a comprehensive state model that will go into effect during the 2014-15 school year. We are encouraging school districts to wait before making any changes to their teacher evaluation systems until further guidance from the work group is determined and released publicly. Once finalized, MDE staff will provide assistance to districts and schools in transitioning to the new model. To view the Teacher Evaluation Work Group membership roster, meeting schedule and documents distributed during past meetings, visit the MDE Teacher Evaluation Work Group web page.

Staff Development Reports

The 2010-11 Staff Development report has been written and submitted to the legislature. Here are some key findings from this report.

- A total of \$124,599,168 was spent by districts and sites in fiscal year 2011. This is a
 decrease of over \$11.4 million from the previous fiscal year.
- The largest percentage of staff development expenditures went to curriculum development (40.27 percent).

- The highest number of student achievement goals reported related to mathematics, science and reading.
- The high-quality staff development component need most frequently reported was the use of data and assessments to inform classroom practice.

To view the complete report, visit the Legislative Reports section on the MDE website.

In addition, the 2011 district and site staff development reports are now available for viewing. <u>To view individual district or site reports</u>, visit the Data Reports and Analytics section of the MDE <u>Data Center</u> and select Staff Development Reports.

Learning about Teaching: Measures of Effective Teaching Project

In fall 2009, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation launched the Measures of Effective Teaching (MET) project to test new approaches recognizing effective teaching. The project goal is to help build fair and reliable systems for teacher observation and feedback to help teachers improve. The first MET project report, *Learning about Teaching*, describes the investigation into whether there are aspects of effective teaching that can be systematically measured by observing classrooms and by asking students for their perceptions. To view the initial report, visit the Measure of Effective Teaching website and select Reports.

Unmistakable Impact – Workshop by Jim Knight

Sponsored by Learning Forward MN (formerly the Minnesota Staff Development Council)

Schools are in the midst of continuous improvement efforts and need to juggle efforts in content planning, instruction and formative assessment. Jim Knight, well known for his work in instructional coaching, will address the collaborative work for improving instruction through alignment of purpose and actions among all staff members. Jim will ground the work of his "partnership approach for dramatically improving instruction" in the "Big Four": content planning, instruction, formative assessment and community building. His new book, Unmistakable Impact, will be the foundation of his workshop. Michael Fullan states, "Jim Knight provides a focused approach to school improvement that hits the mark!"

- Event: 2012 Learning Forward MN Annual Spring Forum with Jim Knight.
- Date: May 3, 2012.
- Location: TIES Building, St. Paul, MN.
- Time: 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Coffee and Check-in at 8:30 a.m. Light lunch served.
- Cost: \$149 per person; 5th member is free. Each registered person will receive a copy of *Unmistakable Impact*.
- Audience: District Leaders, Principals, Teacher Leaders, Instructional Coaches.

To register, visit the Learning Forward Minnesota website.

Standards-Based Reporting – Workshop by Tom Guskey

Dr. Thomas Guskey returns to the Twin Cities to guide and lead our thinking about standards-based reporting. Come and participate in a full-day experience on *Developing Standards-Based Report Cards* with an emphasis on moving from letter grades to standards.

- Event: Standards-Based Reporting.
- Date: April 24, 2012.
- Location: TIES Building, St. Paul, MN.
- Time: 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.; Coffee and Check-in at 8:30 a.m. Light lunch served.

 Cost: \$150 per person; Teams of five for \$650. Each registered person will receive a copy of Developing Standards-Based Report Cards.

To register, visit the Learning Forward Minnesota website.

Reading Well by Third Grade Information Session on April 16, 2012

Please join us for this session on standards-based instruction. Our special guest will be Dr. Kathryn H. Au, past president of the International Reading Association and Reading Hall of Fame inductee. Dr. Au will present information on how to purposefully align instructional practices to the 2010 English Language Arts Academic Standards and how to build the capacity of educators that work with students at, below and above grade level. This event will also include information on alignment to the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) standards for English Learners and an overview the Early Childhood Indicators of Progress.

These workshops are offered free of charge, but registration is required and space is limited. Lunch is not provided. Sessions will be offered via video streaming for participants wishing to attend virtually, and space is available on-site for those who can easily travel to MDE. The workshop will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Conference Center B. Please indicate virtual attendance or in-person participation on registration form. Confirmation and connection information will be provided a few days before each event.

To register visit the Reading Well by Third Grade Information Sessions 2012 web page.

For more information contact Karr Ross at kari.d.ross@state.mn.us.

For more professional development information, <u>visit the Professional Development section of the MDE website</u>.

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GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION

Special Schools for the Gifted Network Meetings

The next network meeting will be held on March 23 in Conference Center B, room CC-16. The invited speaker is Bill Keilty, Ed.D from Spring Lake Park Schools who will discuss *Using the National Association for Gifted Children Pre-K-12 Standards as a Guide for Program Options and Review.*

Representatives of the Navigator Program (Minnetonka School District) and the GATE Program (Stillwater School District) will participate in a panel discussion during the afternoon. There is no cost for participants, but registration is required. <u>Visit the MDE Calendar of Workshops web page</u> to register.

Gifted and Talented Education Symposium 2012

The Hormel Foundation has renewed support for the Gifted and Talented Education Symposium through 2014. Plan now to attend the 2012 symposium, June 10-14 in Austin, Minnesota. A dual-track pre-conference will be held the afternoon of June 10 and a full-day Administrator/Counselor day will be held on June 11 featuring the following presenters and their sessions: The Future of Intelligence on the Network by Eric Calvert, Muskingum University and

Ashland University in Ohio; Grading and Assessment for Highly-Able Students by Mary Slade, James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia; Total School Cluster Grouping: Plans and Perspectives for Administrators by Marcia Gentry, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana; and STEM Camp: The Lab (optional) by Doug Paulson, Minnesota Department of Education in Roseville and by Cathy Kindem, K-5 Science Specialist, Cedar Park STEM Elementary School in Apple Valley, Minnesota.

<u>Visit the Gifted and Talented Education Symposium website</u> for complete information and registration.

Gifted and Talented Advisory Council

The council will meet at MDE on May 14 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Conference Center B, Room CC-17. The council, in conjunction with a task force, is in the process of revising the state strategic plan for gifted and talented education and the Gifted and Talented Programs staff development report.

For information on Gifted and Talented services, visit the Gifted Education web page.

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ACADEMIC STANDARDS

For resources and professional development information, <u>visit the K-12 Academic Standards</u> <u>web page</u>.

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SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY

New Data Reports

A limited number of the 2011-12 student data files are currently posted, including data for Enrollment and Languages are available. <u>Visit the Data Reports and Analytics section of the MDE Data Center</u> and select Student. Current data and data from past years are organized under these categories:

- Attendance
- Average Daily Membership
- Enrollment
- Graduation Rates
- Languages
- Mobility

Please note that the Data for Parents and Educators report pages will not reflect the 2011-12 data until late March 2012.

To view information and documents regarding technology needs assessment tools and technology planning, <u>visit the School Technology web page</u>.

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AWARDS AND RECOGNITION PROGRAMS

Scholarship Opportunity

The Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholars Program is a highly competitive national scholarship program that is open for academically talented 7th graders. If awarded, the scholar will be given academic and financial support through high school. This is a one-time opportunity for students from families with an adjusted gross income below \$80,000.

Visit the Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholars Program website for more information.

Minnesota Scholar of Distinction Award Program 2012

Important dates to remember:

- May 7: Notification to students and schools.
- May 19: Award ceremony.

For information on other awards, <u>visit the Scholarships and Recognition Programs web page</u>.

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MDE CALENDAR OF WORKSHOPS, TRAININGS AND MEETINGS

To view and register for upcoming workshops, trainings and meetings, <u>visit the MDE Calendar</u>. Please note that events are still being reposted to the new website. If event information cannot be found, contact the appropriate division or program staff.

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