



Lincoln Public Schools

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Mary L. Sterling, Ph.D.
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

To: School Committee
From: Mary Sterling
Re: Report on Summer Curriculum and Professional Development
Date: August 29, 2012

Lincoln Public Schools teachers and administrators were actively involved in summer work to develop the district's curriculum and to engage in professional learning. Over 166 contracts were issued to teachers to participate in projects funded largely from the district budget and in part from federal funds through Title IIA, Chapter 274, and Title I. In addition, the Lincoln School Foundation supported several innovative summer projects.

The district summer work projects were organized to address district goals and serve two purposes: to continue building on initiatives already begun in the district and to start work on new initiatives slated for the coming school year. The chart at the end of this document lists all projects by title, faculty participation and facilitators. This summer, there was an increase in leadership provided by our own administrators and teacher leaders. Participant feedback about these summer opportunities for learning and curriculum development was very positive.

Highlights of some significant projects are described below.

- ◆ **Standards-based Assessing and Reporting** Seventh and eighth grade teachers focused on the purpose, logistics, and preparation for standards-based assessment in math, science, social studies, English language arts, and foreign language. They reviewed plans and prepared for the new grade seven and eight report cards, which will be implemented this year.
- ◆ **Alignment with New Massachusetts Standards in ELA:** Teachers in grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 worked in two-day sessions to learn more about the new Massachusetts 2011 Frameworks in English language arts, which have been revised to align with the national "Common Core Standards." The particular focus was on "informational reading." Teachers worked on strategies to engage students in reading non-fiction text and they became acquainted with many new resources, particularly in the areas of science and social studies.
- ◆ **Alignment with New Massachusetts Standards in Mathematics:** Middle school math teachers and specialists worked together to adjust the current district middle school math program to the new standards, with particular attention to the standards that will be assessed in the spring of 2013. Teachers in grades K-5 worked with math specialists to focus on a key feature of the new state Curriculum Frameworks in mathematics: the "Standards of Mathematical Practice." Teachers will be emphasizing these new standards of practice in the *Everyday Math* lessons at each grade level.

- ◆ **Educator Evaluation Professional Learning Community (PLC):** Fourteen teachers, eight administrators, and one School Committee member met in small groups to begin learning about the new Massachusetts model for supervision and evaluation. All PLC participants will continue working together in a year-long study to pilot the components of the model system and reflect on the experiences of evaluating and of being evaluated. The experience of the group will inform decisions in the district about this new model, which will be required by September, 2013.

The quantity and range of these summer projects give evidence of the district's commitment to ensuring a strong curriculum and to raising the level of knowledge and instructional expertise of our teachers and administrators. Strengthened by the extensive work and learning this summer, we are prepared to offer high quality teaching to our students and high quality leadership for our teachers.

Dates	Project, Grade Level	# Participants		Facilitators
June		LC	HC	
6/ 25	Gr 7-8 Standards-based Assessment, Reporting	10	4	Sterling
6/26 6/27	Gr 6-8 Informational Reading Science, Social Studies	6	5	Merra, Montweiler
6/19 6/26	Gr 6-8 Math New MA Standards	4	3	Metzger, Shannon
6/21	Preschool Early Literacy	7	3	Fagan
6/25-29	Gr 6-8 Developmental Design for Middle Schools	0	4	Origins, Inc.
6/21 – 6/30	Grade level transition	13	5	Team Leaders
July & August		LC	HC	
8/5 – 8/10	Gr 6-8 Developmental Design for Middle Schools	3	5	Origins, Inc.
7/23, 7/30, 8/8	Gr PreK-8 PLC: MA Educator Evaluation Model	11	9	McFall, Sterling
8/21	Gr 7-8 Standards-based Assessment, Reporting	4	3	Sterling
8/20 8/21	Gr 3-5 ELA Informational Reading, Writing	11	6	Merra
8/20 8/21	Gr K-2 ELA Informational Reading, Writing	8	3	Blumberg
8/16	Gr K-8 Revision of ELA Lincoln Learning Expectations	4	4	Merra, Sterling
8/22 8/23	Gr K-5 Math: New Standards of Mathematical Practice	15	13	Metzger, Herzog
July, Aug	New ELL Standards: WIDA	2	1	EDCO, Trotta, Lipton
July	Gr 3 Science learning targets	4	1	Green

Lincoln School Foundation Sponsored Summer Projects:

Dates	Grade and Title	# of Participants
6/28 & 29	Gr 4 Journey North – Project-based Learning	5
7/24	Gr K-8 Teaching in a Technology-Rich Environment	15
July, Aug	Gr 1 Science, Social Studies learning activities	4
July, Aug	Gr K Development of Listening Library	3
July, Aug	Gr 7 Development of Flipped Classroom vodcasts	1
8/1 & 6	Gr 1-8 Web-based Resource Development	7