



# Lincoln Public Schools

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To: School Committee  
From: Mary Sterling  
Re: Report on Summer Curriculum and Professional Development  
Date: September 4, 2013

In past years, we have offered summer work organized in substantial professional development sessions in high priority areas and many teachers have participated. This summer was different: teachers were invited to submit proposals for summer work projects aimed at specific district priorities. The response was gratifying: far more proposals were submitted than anticipated and certainly more than allocated funding would support. Some proposals were not funded, much to the teachers' disappointment. Nonetheless, we were able to fund many of the projects with designated district funds, Title IIA, Title I and a substantial grant from the LSF for science projects. A hundred contracts were issued to teachers who participated in a total of 27 projects, as seen in the chart at the end of this report.

Most projects involved teams of teachers who proposed to work collaboratively to add sophistication and depth to current curriculum. After five intense years of acquiring knowledge about new standards, new curriculum, and a standards-based approach to planning, instruction, assessment and reporting, teachers were eager to apply their understanding to refine lessons, improve units of instruction, and make connections across disciplines. Three projects involved preparation to implement the new Massachusetts model for supervision and evaluation in the coming year.

Highlights of some significant projects are described below.

- ◆ **Educator Evaluation System** Three groups of teachers and administrators met this summer to prepare materials and develop plans to support the new evaluation system. One group included three members of the LTA, three administrators and a School Committee member. They focused on creating a new Educator Handbook for Evaluation, based on the newly ratified contract language for Article 10, which addresses evaluation. This new handbook will be posted on our district website and will be available for teachers in September. Two other groups, comprised of teachers and administrators who participated in the evaluation study group last year, worked on plans for introducing the new system and providing support for the steps along the way.
- ◆ **Science** The Lincoln School Foundation awarded the district a generous grant to "dig deeper into science." This funding supported eight projects from grade 2 to grade 8 and each one involved our new science and engineering curriculum leader, Mairead Curtis. The curriculum work gave teachers an opportunity to refine science units and to learn more from Dr. Curtis about the Next Generation Science Standards which will influence new science standards in Massachusetts by 2014-15.
- ◆ **Literacy** Five projects involved planning for literacy learning in grades 1- 4 and one project focused on articulating consistent practices in "Balanced Literacy" for the elementary grades throughout the district. In all projects, classroom teachers worked with literacy specialists either before or during the summer to align literacy

instruction with new standards, access new resources, and/or plan a comprehensive approach for the school year.

- ◆ **Mathematics** The three math projects focused on aligning to new math standards and developing curriculum in Kindergarten, grade five and grade six. This year, the Kindergarten teachers will use substantially new curriculum materials for mathematics instruction, which are better aligned to new standards than the previous materials. The teachers will benefit from guiding documents prepared by math specialists this summer and from professional development sessions that math specialists will lead this fall. The grade five team and the middle school math specialist on the Lincoln campus worked to develop more differentiated materials for math instruction, aligned with new math standards. In grade six, the Lincoln math teacher and math specialist developed lessons, assessments, and differentiated options for the new grade six “extended” math course.

The thoughtful planning and development that occurred this summer will surely support high quality teaching and learning in 2013-14. In addition, the benefit of these projects will continue throughout the year. We will offer professional development in using the new evaluation system, provide more leadership in science, maintain a continued focus on balanced literacy instruction, and refine mathematics instruction with new materials, enhanced instructional approaches, and a deeper understanding of new content and practice standards.

#	Coordinator	Title	# People			Total Participants
			LC	HC	D	
1	Terry Green	Transition for District Science Leadership Science	1		1	2
2	Terry Green	Grade 4 Science and Science enrichment Science	2	1	1	4
3	Claire Moore	Reader’s workshop and common core curriculum guide Literacy		3	1	4
4	Caroline Curry	Simple machines unit development Science	3	1	1	5
5	Elizabeth Averch	Common assessments-standards based learning Science	1	1	1	3
6	Pate Pierson	Math Differentiation and Extensions Math	4		1	5
7	Jennifer Mastrullo	Integrated literacy mapping for 21st century learner Literacy	3			3
8	Rob Ford	Technology Director orientation Technology	3	2	5	10
9	Cathlin O’Reilly	Aligning reader’s workshop and writer’s workshop with the common core Literacy	2			2
10	Melissa D’Agostino	Refining grade 4 writing curriculum Literacy	4		1	5
11	Karena Hansen	Providing opportunities for extension with standards-based assessment Foreign Language	1	1		2

#	Coordinator	Title	# People			Total Participants
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12	Julie Reynolds	Human Anatomy unit development Science	1		1	2
13	Pamela Anzaldi, Pamela Roberts	Developing learning targets for grade 1 music	1	1		2
14	Claudia FoxTree	Differentiation in 7th grade Science unit Science	2		1	3
15	Liz Clancy	Social studies unit revision to align report card descriptors and learning targets Social Studies		3		3
16	Beth Ludwig	Social/emotional learning: HPS team work Social/emotional		8		8
17	Rita Trotta	Aligning ELL new WIDA standards and materials to grade 2 curriculum ELL	1	1		2
18	Rose Vignola	Writers workshop: Standards-based lessons and assessments Literacy		3	1	4
19	Liz Van Cleef	K Math curriculum planning Math	1	2	1	4
20	Dave Joseph	Grade Six Science revisions Science	1		1	2
21	David Trant	Grade Six Science revisions Science	1		1	2
22	Steve Cullen	Grade 8 development of Constitution Unit Social Studies	2			2
23	Judy Merra	Balanced Literacy development Literacy	1		1	2
24	Kerri Rawding	Development of Math Course 1 Extended Math	1		1	2
25	McFall/Sterling	Revision of Teacher Evaluation Handbook Educator Evaluation	2	2	2	6
26	McFall/Sterling	Planning the District Roll-out of the Eval. System Educator Evaluation	2	1	1	4
27	McFall/Sterling	PD for Building Resource People Ed. Evaluation Educator Evaluation	3	3	1	7