

ELA CURRICULUM MEETINGS  
August 5 and 6, 2013  
Discussion Summary

A review of the grade level summaries for the new curriculum from PDE indicated several areas in which more work will be needed. Among these are:

- Kindergarten Form an opinion
  
- Grade 2 Form an opinion, use evidence from the text to indicate author's purpose (Grade 1 does this, so it needs to be continued and expanded in Grade 2)  
Emphasis on digital technology skills which need to be expanded beyond power point.
  
- Grade 4 Text from other cultures (Use Internet)
  
- Grade 5 Use MLA 7  
Stress analysis and interpretation
  
- Grade 6 Emphasize analysis and interpretation  
Need to understand arguments—debates are recommended for this grade
  
- Grade 7, 8 Need to be reviewed
  
- Grade 9 The first part of the description is an area in which greater emphasis is needed—argument and counterclaims, validity of opinions, point of view

There was an extensive review of PSSA and Keystone data. For Keystone tests, there will be remediation before the next testing with CDTs being administered to help in the preparation.

There was a discussion of the results of research on student grouping. Based on this review and analysis of PSSA results, revisions in grouping for reading began. The top students will be grouped together and challenged to higher levels. As in previous discussions, there was the caution about having high expectations for all students. All other students will be heterogeneously grouped to utilize students to facilitate student learning.

Kindergarten is an area of concern as only about 50% enter school meeting the new expectations for the Common Core. Changes will be made immediately in the structure of skill group time. There will be further discussion of options for helping those entering school to be

prepared. Suggestions include a K4 program, and meetings with parents of 3 year olds and 4 year olds to provide parents with suggestions of ways to work with their children to meet benchmarks for success in Kindergarten.

Easy Bib is being used at the jr/sr high school to help students with citations, but it has many other capabilities to assist/force students to write summaries of resources. Karen has checked, and the elementary school can use the secondary license—another purchase is not needed. They will collaborate to utilize this resource. A request of the librarians is for an open computer to check resources.

#### MEETINGS:

There need to be meetings between English and other content areas to coordinate expectations for papers and other assignments.

#### NEEDS:

A digital newspaper is recommended.

The faculty reviewed the sample units and recommend that all units be accessible to faculty once they are released by PDE. This is the plan, so everyone is in agreement about the possibilities of these units for curriculum adoption.

Other grades need to review the documents with articulation K-12.

#### OTHER WORK:

Faculty worked on the following areas:

- Standards-based Report Cards
- Writing Rubrics
- Skill Groups
- Lexile Numbers for materials
- Data Analysis
- Common Core Checklists
- Preparation of Common Core lessons