



Teaching & Learning



Newsletter

Fall, 2025



A Quick Recap

Before we welcome the new school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the strong foundations we've built together heading into 25-26. Thanks to your deep commitment to professional learning, we increased the number of students reading at grade level by 8 percent and exited a record number of MLL students last year. That's a BIG deal! It is a direct result of your focus, your time, and your dedication to student learning.

In elementary classrooms UFLI continues to be our foundation for literacy instruction. The consistency and quality of teaching we are seeing is powerful and it is making a real impact on student growth. Across the district we are seeing so many of you take a risk and try out the Be GLAD strategies in your classrooms. It is inspiring to watch and it is helping ensure our students get the support they need.

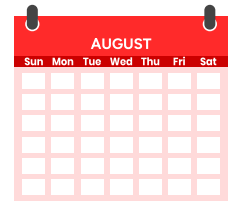
On the secondary side I am grateful to learn alongside you in the math studio work with the University of Washington. It takes courage to be vulnerable with your colleagues, try new things, and push your thinking. The collaboration and growth happening in these sessions is exciting to see and it is making us more curious and thoughtful about how we approach math instruction.



A Quick Recap Cont...

What is especially impressive is that we are starting to sound like a cohesive system. Collective Efficacy (that thing so many of you hear me rambling on and on about) is really starting to happen)! That kind of alignment takes time but it is happening and it is happening because of **you**.

August Professional Development



Secondary ELA Work

Operation ELEVATE is providing SHSD an opportunity to take a look at our secondary ELA curriculum and do some work as a 6-12 team in order to create some vertical alignment between Pioneer Middle School and Steilacoom High School. Back in May, these two teams gathered and started to identify what a successful SHSD graduate would learn and love coming out of our comprehensive ELA program.

We've got a few days of unit planning in mid-August and some more work throughout the school year. The team's plan is to pilot some new novels this year, identify a 6-12 writing curriculum, and run new materials through the IMC for Board approval to being the 26-27 school year. We are excited to see the great work this team will accomplish for our students!

The best education for every student



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August Professional Development Highlights



SHS Welcomes Dr. Yemi Stemberge!

SHS will welcome Dr. Yemi Stemberge on Tuesday, August 26th for a full day of professional development!

In the last two years, several SHS staff have had an opportunity to engage in workshops or residencies with Yemi. We are more than excited to bring him to the entire SHS staff to talk about designing Engagement Traps and **Collective Impact** for teaching.

Empowering Student Voice @ Pioneer

On Tuesday, August 26th The Pioneer Pirates will be focused on empowering student voice and creating space for civil discourse in the classroom. Throughout the day staff will explore practical strategies to help students engage in respectful conversations, listen with empathy, and navigate through challenging topics with confidence. This PD is has hands-on activities, tools, and real-world scenarios to help build classrooms where students are ready to contribute thoughtfully.

TK-5 Collaboration

On Tuesday, August 26th our TK-5 schools will gather to provide a series of professional learning opportunities for teachers to get what they need. This amazing day has a menu of options that includes PD sessions on the Foundations of UFLI, UFLI advanced training, Since Time Immemorial (STI), Building Thinking Classrooms (math), and Mystery Writing, a new writing curriculum we are piloting for the 25-26 school year utilizing DoDEA 23 funds. At least, that's what is currently in the works as I write this newsletter.

TK-12 Standards Update

Remember how we were gearing up for the 2025-2026 school year standards rollout based on OSPI's timeline in March?

Well... it turns out that plan is shifting. With recent staffing cuts at the big house, the rollout is moving much slower than expected. The good news? We've got more time to ease into the new standards.

Here's what we know so far: OSPI is still working on revisions, and we're expecting updated documents sometime this fall. Full implementation is now pushed back to the 2027-2028 school year, so report card and standards changes won't show up until fall 2027.

We're also told we'll see drafts this year for new standards in Financial Math, Science, Health and PE, World Languages, and Social Studies. Will that change? Maybe, but for now, that's the plan.