

Instruction Office Highlights

By Assistants to the Superintendent for Instruction Susan Hasenauer-Curtis (Elementary), and Rachel Kluth (Secondary)

One of the primary goals of the Brockport Central School District is to improve student achievement and District performance through a strategic focus on teaching and learning methods that are research-based and have a proven track record of success. The STLE 3 Grant is one avenue that has allowed the District to be deliberate in designing activities to support this goal. This grant focuses on increasing teacher and leader effectiveness through various opportunities which allow educators to increase their craft by participating in leadership roles linked directly to the outcomes identified in Brockport's Strategic Plan.

Full implementation of this grant began in July 2014 by creating systems and structures that will directly impact student achievement. Thank you to many teachers and administrators for going above and beyond to ensure we close the achievement gap for all students. Initiatives include:

- A partnership with the College at Brockport focused on developing an intensive teacher/administrative induction program for pre-service students.
- The development and enhancement of BCSD's mentorship and induction program for new teachers and administrators.
- The creation and utilization of Demonstration Classrooms focused on English Language Arts (ELA) to view learning targets, higher level questioning and the instructional shifts in action. The development of committees comprised of more than 80 teachers and administrators to address immediate priorities identified in the instructional audit and key outcomes linked to the strategic plan.
- The development of a Comprehensive Professional Development Plan that is aligned with the national standards of Professional Learning Practice (Learning Forward) for building the capacity of both teachers and school leaders.
- The creation of a partnership with Expeditionary Learning to support the implementation of the Common Core Learning Standards. Action Institutes around learning targets have taken place and 25 teachers and administrators attended the workshops.
- Lastly, three Family and Community Liaisons have been planning information nights on a variety of topics linked to feedback from parent surveys regarding the implementation of the Regents Reform Agenda. Additionally, various community nights supporting both students and parents are in the development stage. See sidebar for an eight-part community series on Common Core: Debunking the Myths.

Please call The Office of Instruction at 637-1818 to register.

Common Core: Debunking the Myths

A Parent Guide to Understanding the Common Core Learning Standards

Monday, December 8 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Technology & Training Center

A critical component of a student's success in school is dependent on what and how they learn at home. Parents will be provided with steps they can take to improve their child's learning of the Common Core. In addition, parents will learn how to navigate the EngageNY website for resources to better understand the demands of the Common Core Learning Standards.

Common Core Resources for Parents of Students with Disabilities

Thursday, January 15 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the District Office Board of Education Room

Many parents have asked questions about how New York State's adoption of the Common Core Learning Standards will affect their children who have disabilities. To provide clarity on this issue, participants will have the opportunity to learn about available resources to ensure a better understanding of the Common Core Learning Standards and how the IEP should include recommendations to support children with disabilities progress towards those standards.

Understanding the Shifts: Digging Deeper into Math and ELA

Saturday, February 28 from 9 to 11 a.m. in the District Office Board of Education Room

Participants will better understand the shifts in action by examining videos showing the shifts in action. Discussion time will allow parents to talk about what they observed and ask any probing questions.

Understanding the ELA 3 - 8 NYS Exams

Tuesday, March 24 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Technology & Training Center

Participants will see a sample of questions used on the 2013 and 2014 ELA/Literacy Common Core state tests and examine the kinds of thinking students are required to do in the new Common Core Tests.

Understanding the Math 3 - 8 NYS Exams

Monday, April 6 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the District Office Board of Education Room

Participants will see a sample of questions used on the 2013 and 2014 Math Common Core state tests and examine the kinds of thinking students are required to do in the new Common Core Tests.

"Appy Hour"

Tuesday, May 12 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the District Office Board of Education Room

Participants will examine sites and games aimed at helping students practice key skills of the Common Core Standards. In addition, see what apps are available to support your child's learning at home.

Summer Activities for Learning

Tuesday, June 9 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the District Office Board of Education Room

Research indicates that student reading levels and ability can drop up to 40 percent over the summer. Parents will learn what they can do to help their child at home in both math and ELA. This forum will be broken down by grade level bands to meet the specific needs of all students.