

## **District Support Visit Report**

**County: Frederick**

### *Schools visited:*

- Carroll Manor Elementary School
- West Frederick Middle School

### *Teacher Classroom Participation:*

- The MSDE team was allowed to freely visit any classroom in Carroll Manor Elementary School.
- The MSDE team was allowed to freely visit any classroom in West Frederick Middle School.

### *Participation at meetings:*

- Approximately 8 central office at the morning meeting, including the Carroll Manor Elementary principal
- Approximately 9 elementary and 3 middle school teachers attended the meetings after the classroom visits.

### *Summary of MSDE resources and support that teachers found most useful:*

- Materials from 2013 EEAs, especially those from the principals' sessions
- Videos of Master Teachers who demonstrated model lessons aligned to the instructional shifts of the Common Core and STEM education (follow-up videos from 2012 academies).
- Maryland Common Core Frameworks
- Materials for communicating with parents regarding the transition to the Common Core

### *Summary of resources and support that district personnel and teachers reported they would like from MSDE:*

- Professional development needs from MSDE:
  - More web- online based Professional Learning opportunities.
  - Opportunities on Writing, particularly Narrative Tasks- how to teach kids to do this type of writing
  - How to create text-dependent, complex questions
  - Evaluating text complexity
  - How to address ELL population
  - Data dialogue, not just to look at data and identify deficits but to address strategies and pedagogy that is most effective in moving students forward
  - Developing leaders
  - How to get general education teachers to understand second language acquisition.
  - Strategies to show how multiple standards can be pulled together and addressed within a lesson.
  - Changing teacher understanding about the need to plan differently as well as teach differently.
  - Disciplinary literacy

- Additional Resources Needed from MSDE:
  - Additional resources addressing the needs of the ELL student population.
  - Resources on text complexity, creating complex questions, narrative writing.
  - In elementary: suggestions/guidance for selection of instructional materials, such as textbooks, on digital resources that are aligned to CCSS, particularly etextbooks
  - Developing leaders
  - Examples of lessons on disciplinary literacy- ways for authentic integration of content in science, social studies, etc. (elementary)
  - Strategies! The comment was made that they are “resource rich and strategy poor”
  - Information/training on text complexity for disciplinary literacy subject teachers
  - Strategies on how to scaffold for students who are significantly below grade level.

### *Overview/Key Messages*

- Teachers appreciated that MSDE visited and asked them what they need
- Frederick County provided a wealth of information about current efforts, challenges, and successes. The professional development initiatives from the county level are extensive and impressive. They are focused on the needs of the diverse population in the county, especially the growing ELL population—fasted growing in the state.
- MSDE appreciated the open, collegial, and candid conversation. Participants were open about successes and obstacles that they were experiencing. MSDE appreciates that the county arranged for school sites that demonstrated the very diverse needs of the county.
- Frederick County is thinking strategically and long term in terms of technology integration, communication with parents, building leadership via cohorts with McDaniel College, and planning for changes in the scope and sequence of courses to align with Common Core.
- Frederick has been emulating the EEAs in format and substance as they have created PD within the system. They held three EEAs within Frederick County during the 2012-13 School Year.
- Teachers and central office indicated that they like the design/format of the monthly live webinars.
- In general, participants felt that MSDE resources are good and very helpful; however, were unaware of some of the resources available.
- Elementary would like to bring in MSDE science, social studies, and PE specialists to discuss ways they can change the flow and organization of the school day to make learning more authentic