

## Harford County Support Visit

December 6, 2013

Schools visited:

Magnolia Elementary and Edgewood High School

Central Office Participation:

Central office administrators representing elementary and secondary ELA, and mathematics, and instructional directors attended the morning discussion, including the principal from the elementary school. In the afternoon, secondary directors attended, including middle school leaders.

Teacher and Principal Participation:

Including the debriefing sessions, there were about 35 classroom educators. At both schools, the instructional leadership teams attended these sessions.

Summary of MSDE resources central office and school personnel felt was **most useful** in transitioning to the Common Core State Standards:

- The resources shared at the Summer Educator Effectiveness Academies
- The online curriculum resources, including lessons, units, seeds, and webinars (but they need more)
- The Pre-K Common Core Standards and Frameworks that Maryland developed are really helpful.
- The EEA STEM teachers have been helpful.
- The Engineering is Elementary program has been successful at the elementary school for STEM

Summary of resources district and school personnel stated they **would like from MSDE**:

- Videos of Maryland educators implementing the new standards
- While videos are wonderful, they would also like to have access to coaches in the classroom who could provide more immediate support

- More timely communications on information about assessments, curriculum resources; it would also be helpful to send principals “key talking points” about PARCC and Common Core. Also, they would like better communication about the webinars that are being offered.
- Facilitation of regional showcases featuring “best practices” for transition and implementation; more opportunities to work with educators in other local school systems
- There is a need for additional resources to help with technology – both around instruction and assessment.
- Resources for parents to help students at home and positive PR support with parents
- More intervention and enrichment resources are needed

Summary of **professional development opportunities** district and school personnel would like MSDE to facilitate:

- More support for differentiating/scaffolding instruction
- More support for locating appropriate text.
- More interdisciplinary units and ideas for how to implement them - STEM
- Support for teaching writing
- Additional resources and professional development to support students with disabilities are needed

Key Messages from Harford County:

- Transition does not occur overnight or even in a year. We must be patient with ourselves as we progress through this transition.
- Opportunities to collaborate with colleagues is beneficial
- PLCs (high school) are working well
- At the elementary school, the open schedule allows teachers to address student needs and works very well
- Technology for instruction and assessment is a concern