

Prince George's County Support Visit

April 28, 2014

Schools visited:

Rockledge Elementary, Samuel Ogle Middle School, Charles H. Flowers High School

Central Office Participation:

Central office administrators representing numerous offices participated in the visit throughout the day.

Teacher and Principal Participation:

The MSDE team divided into three groups and visited the elementary, middle, and high school classrooms in the morning. In the afternoon, central office administrators and classroom teachers met in a public forum with the entire MSDE team to share information about their transition. Prior to the open forum, MSDE “toured” the MSDE Blackboard Learn website with about 40 educators from Prince George’s County. The participation at the public forum was very well-attended.

Summary of MSDE resources central office and/or county resources, other states’ resources that school personnel felt was **most useful** in transitioning to the Common Core State Standards:

- English Language Arts Curriculum Frameworks
- The ELA lessons on Ben Carson and Anne Frank that are on Blackboard; central office staff felt Blackboard Learn resources were “phenomenal”.
- Social Studies C3 Frameworks and accompanying webinars and examples
- Engage NY, North Carolina, Ohio, Utah, and Georgia websites, and resources from Howard County; other website that have been helpful: LearnZillion, Mobius Math
- County meeting between fifth grade teachers and middle school teachers to discuss transition
- Opportunity for administrators to attend content specific professional development with their teachers
- PARCC Practice Tests because this allowed teachers to see the need to focus on writing and providing evidence from text

- Professional development opportunity where teachers created the different task type questions in mathematics; teachers felt this should be offered again to all mathematics educators
- MSDE materials have been used in Prince George's County curriculum
- Lesson seeds in Geometry have been very helpful
- Algebra II resources being used. Linked Blackboard Lessons to their units in mathematics (especially the UDL)
- The study groups in Prince George's County have been very helpful for teachers to plan and teach
- more samples especially research tasks. Facilitate the development of research tasks.
- ESOL support from MSDE has been very helpful and teachers appreciate the Edmodo Group that has been created
- Sample tasks on PARCC have been helpful for ESOL; New Jersey has a number of resources for ELLs; Scope and Sequence have been created for ELLs; SWDs- content needs and when to use which resources.
- Updates for ELA have been provided and are helpful
- Blackboard resources on STEM
- EEA resources are used by Prince George's County educators
- The professional development on interdisciplinary literacy (two presentations) has been very helpful; more of this would be helpful – even pulling several counties together for these professional opportunities would be beneficial.
- Lessons for math on blackboard have been very helpful

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

- Resources on making lessons cross curricular
- Resources for teaching grammar as part of the writing process
- “gap” lessons and “gap” strategies so that educators can bridge the gaps students have (especially critical in this time of transition)
- More performance based tasks
- Common language for parents and across contents (i.e. testing language, vocabulary)
- More ELL resources
- More G/T resources
- More lessons for English Language Arts/Literacy, mathematics, and STEM
- More resources to use with students with disabilities
- Collection of informational texts , especially packets of texts that are on the same topic at varying reading instructional levels for scaffolding instruction

- Classroom videos **that include** the conversation between teachers, and explanations of why particular activities and strategies were chosen
- Software to help with practicing for the computer-based assessments
- A bank of state wide benchmark assessment test with a uniform rubric; for mathematics, assessments that integrate the practices with rubrics
- “I Can” messages aligned to the standards

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

- Professional learning opportunities on making lessons cross curricular
- Training on integrating technology into classroom instruction (not just using SmartBoards)
- Webinars offered at different times to accommodate their schedules (evenings or weekends); even though webinars are archived teachers said they would like an opportunity to actively participate
- Professional learning opportunities on teaching grammar, especially on how to integrate in the writing process (grammar in context), rather than teaching in isolation
- Professional learning opportunities on how to develop vocabulary instruction and how to integrate across all of the disciplines
- Professional learning opportunities on scaffolding and how to close the “gap” for students starting MD CCRS in the middle of their academic careers (esp. 7th and 8th graders)
- Time to visit colleagues in school, LEA, and state for classroom visits and PD
- Professional learning opportunities on the most effective ways to use the resources once they have them
 - More professional learning for supporting special education students
 - Skills for paraprofessional on implementation of the standards
- Professional learning opportunities for mathematics content, especially fractions
- More workshops on UDL
- Lesson study model where MSDE staff works with teachers (Student Work Protocol)
- Professional learning opportunities on how to develop IEPs that will help students master the new standards

Key Messages from Prince George's County:

Samuel Ogle Teachers – The teachers report that they “love” the new standards, but the assessments are proving to be a challenge for students as they transition to the new standards.

Time for planning and professional learning continues to be challenging; teachers want more opportunities for professional learning

Teachers in Prince George's County believe the new standards are good for their students

Teachers do not have time to look for resources; they want vetted resources shared with them