

Wicomico County Support Visit

April 29, 2014

Schools visited:

Prince Street Elementary, James Bennett Middle School

Central Office Participation

Central office administrators representing all of the disciplines met with us at the end of the day. Dr. Margo Handy, Assistant Superintendent joined us throughout the day, and encouraged Wicomico educators to be honest in their feedback so that the information could be used to inform “next steps”.

Teacher and Principal Participation:

MSDE visited the elementary and middle school classrooms. After visiting classrooms, the teachers joined MSDE to share their insights about the resources they found to be useful, resources they would like, and the professional learning that they would like. At both schools we were also joined by instructional coaches who shared the types of support that they are providing.

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:

- Model lesson on The Cay (English Language Arts)
- Resources from Howard County have been very helpful, as well as resources from EngageNY, North Carolina, and Georgia
- Both schools have coaches who provide professional learning opportunities – both job-embedded and more directed – teachers really appreciate this resource
- While teachers said they hadn’t had the opportunity to look at MSDE resources, coaches shared that they have used them
- Information about the STEM Standards of Practice
- Math Snacks-Fractions

- Thinkport Resources such as Lure of the Labyrinth
- Naviance software has been very helpful
- Professional development on math content - a collaboration between Wicomico County and Salisbury University (this was directed toward elementary and middle school teachers; 20 modules available)
- Eastern Shore collaboration
- Online upcoming summer resources

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

- “What does it look like?” Videos that demonstrate strategies for teaching the standards – visualizing the standards, unpacking the standards, using manipulatives and tying it all together
- ELA – More support for close reading and also videos showing instruction around close reading
- Leveled readings to support scaffolding of instruction
- Sample activities that support instruction aligned to the new standards
- Strategies for imbedding the language standards into language arts lessons; it has been challenging implementing the language standards
- Resources for STEM implementation – Standards of Practices not lessons, teachers really like the standards around inquiry and questioning
- PARCC practice tests broken into understandable segments
- Closing the gap – strategies and curriculum for all students
- Writing goals to align with Maryland College- and Career-Ready Standards
- Guidance for parent involvement, especially for early childhood – kindergarten; including resources that don’t require technology
- Parent publications in various languages
- PPTs for them to print out to be used in instruction,
- Resources for using videos, such as how to use time stamps
- Concern about regional briefings (mathematics, only)
- Guidance on how to balance direct instruction with collaborative, group work (mathematics)

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

- Professional learning opportunities on scaffolding and how to close the “gap” for students
- Time to visit colleagues in other schools, LEAs

- More professional learning for supporting special education students
- Send representatives from the state to their county briefings for support and to share additional information

Key Messages from Wicomico County:

Teachers support the standards, but there are so many new initiatives, it is overwhelming

Teachers need time to reflect after professional learning; they need time to implement the new standards

Wicomico has great support with technology, both access and application