



Assistant Superintendent

Jennifer Gatz

Board Report January 2021

Visible Learning Plus Professional Development

As some of you may remember a USD 113 leadership team was planning to attend a series of workshops presented by John Hattie and a team of Visible Learning experts through our partnership with the Kansas MTSS Technical Assistance Systems Network (TASN) beginning in the 2020-21 school year. With the restrictions caused by COVID, this professional learning series was postponed and we have recently been given the schedule for starting this series in the fall of 2021. Beginning in the fall of 2021 USD 113 will have a team of teachers, administrators, and district leaders participating in this unique professional learning opportunity called Visible Learning Plus. This three-year partnership organized through TASN will provide our team with professional learning focused on building teacher leaders and utilizing the Visible Learning strategies to positively impact students. I envision our work that we do with the Visible Learning Plus team aligning with our KESA goals and action plans to propel us into our next KESA cycle of accreditation. [In this video John Hattie](#) describes the outcomes of Visible Learning Plus.

The kick-off event for the Visible Learning Plus series of professional development is scheduled for September 13th in Salina, Kansas. We are excited about providing the opportunity for all staff members to attend this professional development day to receive the information about the five strands of visible learning first hand. Any staff member that is unable to attend the professional learning in Salina will be provided the opportunity to remain in the district to participate in a book study and discussion focused on the book Visible Learning for Teachers by John Hattie. I'm excited about trying something different and I appreciate the Board of Education's support as we continue to improve teaching and learning in our district.

Kansas Educational System Accreditation (KESA) Update:

Our District Leadership Team will meet on January 22nd to continue to evaluate various data and refine our KESA action plans. At this meeting we will also continue planning for our Outside Visitation Team (OVT) which will take place on February 22nd. After this visit our OVT team will submit reports to the Accreditation Review Council (ARC). This spring the ARC will meet to review our reports and recommend us for to be accredited, conditionally accredited or not accredited at a future State Board of Education meeting this spring.

MTSS Update

We completed our winter benchmark screening in FastBridge during the month of December and at our January 11th PLC grade levels and content teams will meet to analyze the data. The winter screening data will be used to reorganize our MTSS intervention groups. Restrictions related to COVID have caused some disruption in our normal protocols for grouping students but we continue to try to meet students' needs the best we can while limiting the number of interactions outside of established cohort groups. We continue to utilize this data to measure growth and identify skills that students are struggling on. We will spend time at our next District Leadership Team meeting on January 22nd looking at building level data to determine the effectiveness of both our core curriculum and our interventions. We continue to see growth and improvement in all of our students as we analyze our MTSS process. Additionally, the feedback that we continue to hear regarding our resource adoption of the Superkids Reading program continues to be positive. In addition to looking at reading and math data our grade level PLC's and our Building and District Leadership Teams will continue to look at behavior data to implement behavior interventions.

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6-12 Math Review and Adoption Process

Samples from a variety of textbooks resources have been secured and distributed to teachers for review as we begin looking at adopting a new math resource for grades 6-12. We will be meeting on January 29th to discuss our findings and learn more about these resources. We will also look at the rating of various programs using web resources such as EdReports, and the What Works Clearinghouse. Our goal is to be ready to pilot some resources after spring break to make a final decision prior to the end of the school year.

District In-service:

I am appreciative of the time we will have on January 29th for professional development. I am working on a schedule for each content team to meet virtually for professional development that is meaningful and relevant. We will also be completing the final 2 hours of our Dyslexia Training which is a state requirement. We have completed four of the six required hours at previous in-service sessions.

Kansas Assessments, ACT and WorkKeys

The assessment season will soon be here as the Kansas State Assessment testing window opens on April 1st. You can learn more about the various assessment by click on [this overview](#). Our district wide ACT assessment that is sponsored by KSDE will be given on February 23rd and the WorkKeys assessments will be given on February 24th. The make-up dates for any student unable to test on those dates have been set for March 8th for ACT and March 9th for WorkKeys. We are busy preparing for these assessments to ensure that our students are prepared and ready to succeed.

ACT Results Request

At the December Board of Education meeting I shared the district ACT results for the 2020 graduating class. A board of education member asked if we had records dating back further with ACT scores from the last 10 years. [This document](#) contains records of the number of students tested, subject area and composite results for 2011-2020.