



As winter nears, bureau continues providing information, support

It's that time of year — the leaves have fallen and we've had our first snow! As a bureau we are continuing to work, prekindergarten-Grade 12, to provide schools and communities with information and support in the area of teaching and learning. A recent change in our bureau finds former Teaching and Learning Education

Manager Marlene Lovanio in a new position as K-12 supervisor of mathematics for the Bristol Public Schools. We wish her the very best!

We thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to address issues related to the state's on-going budget crisis. Stay

warm and have a wonderful holiday season!

— *Harriet and Jack*



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Curriculum Resources*

- Curriculum Matters: <http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/curriculum/>
- National Association for the Education of Young Children: <http://www.naeyc.org/>

To share innovative curriculum resources from your district, contact Andrea Brinnel at andrea.brinnel@ct.gov.

*Disclaimer: The Bureau of Teaching and Learning provides this information for the convenience of the recipients. The CSDE does not endorse any product listed (or specific curricula) nor does it guarantee the accuracy and completeness of any outside information.

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CURRICULUM STANDARDS UPDATES

Common Core of Teaching Revisions

We have been working since January 2009 to revise and update Connecticut's Common Core of Teaching (CCT) to reflect current standards, research and best practice.

In November, the Commissioner sent a letter to superintendents asking their support in disseminating this information to educators in their schools and districts to provide feedback on CCT through the online job analysis survey. After incorporating revisions based on feedback received through the survey, the final document will be presented to the State Board of Education in January 2010.

Common Core Standards Initiative

The Common Core State Standards is a joint effort by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) in partnership with Achieve, ACT and the College Board. Governors and state commissioners of education from across the country have committed to joining a state-led process to develop a common core of state standards in English language arts and mathematics for Grades K-12. The first step of this initiative is developing college- and career-readiness standards followed by K-12 standards.

BUREAU NEWS

Literacy Coaching

Over the past four years the term "coach" has taken on a different meaning in education. Gone are the visions of athletics and team sports.

Enter the new "coach," that of content and academics. In 2007, Connecticut added the following priority school district statutory language: "provide for on-site teacher training and coaching in the implementation of research-based reading instruction."

The statute was intended for the state's Priority School Districts, but many other

districts have begun to implement literacy coaches in their district's change process. They may work directly with students who have difficulties in reading and comprehension, but their major role is to work with teachers to use strategies designed to improve their students' ability to read, write.

Coaches may facilitate literacy teams that review assessment data and develop literacy goals for grade levels, teachers and students. They also may work closely with new teachers and administrators, helping them to understand the school's literacy program and their role in it.

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AWARD PROGRAMS

ATOMIC Mari Muri Award

Congratulations to Charlene Tate-Nichols, education consultant with the Bureau of Teaching and Learning, who was awarded the Mari Muri Award by the Associated Teachers of Mathematics in Connecticut (ATOMIC) in recognition of her lifelong contributions to the teaching of mathematics.

Presidential Awards for Excellence in K-6

Nominations are being accepted for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Nominees must be highly qualified teachers in Grades K-6 who have at least five years of mathematics or science teaching experience in a public or private school. Self-nominations are permissible. Nominations are open at <http://www.paemst.org/>. Save Grades 7-12 teacher nominations until the 2010 cycle. If you know great teachers, nominate them to join this prestigious network of professionals. Contact Elizabeth Buttner (science): elizabeth.buttner@ct.gov or Charlene Tate-Nichols (math): charlene.tate.nichols@ct.gov for more information.

GRANT NEWS

Centers of Excellence in Early Childhood Education

The Bureau of Teaching and Learning in conjunction with The CT Head Start Collaboration Office is pleased to announce that The Human Resource Agency of New Britain Head Start Program has been recommended to Governor Rell as CT's nominee for the national grant competition.

BUREAU NEWS

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Overall, the literacy coaching role is not easy. Successful coaches are viewed by teachers as mentors who understand their goals, frustrations, and visions, and who facilitate their ability to help students achieve at high levels. To assist coaches in building their literacy knowledge the Connecticut State Department of Education has designed and implemented professional development sessions for Priority School District literacy coaches. The sessions have been designed based on need. This year the professional development series have been *ELL and Literacy* and *Making the PreK-K Transition*. For more information on literacy coaching, contact Amy Radikas at amy.radikas@ct.gov.

Student Success Plans Take Root

A recent opportunity offered by the CSDE through our Career and Technical Education initiatives has resulted in the development of student success plans (SSPs) for secondary school students. By using competitive Innovation Grant funds authorized under the Perkins Act, eligible districts applied for funds to develop electronic SSPs. The districts selected include Brookfield, Killingly, New Fairfield, Newtown, North Stonington, Region 7 and

Simsbury. These pilot plans will mirror the elements proposed for Student Success Plans for the middle and high school under the *Connecticut Plan for Secondary School Reform*. The SSP are based on three major core components: academic, career and social/emotional/physical development aligned to *Comprehensive School Counseling: A Guide to Comprehensive School Counseling Program Development* (<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/DEPS/Special/counseling.pdf>). Grantees designed plans to provide student exploration of interests; develop flexible plans centered around student interests or career pathways; establish an infrastructure to accommodate technological requirements, staff professional development, parent participation and student scheduling; establish an individualized student advisory team to include teachers, parents and support services; and use one or more compatible electronic student management systems for SSP development and maintenance. Although the grant project pilot sites are in their infancy, they offer insight to the establishment of SSPs that may become part of every student's educational process.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Educational Tech: Your Input Needed

Connecticut has been asked to participate in Project RED, a national educational technology study that aims to quantify the impact of technology in education, define technology models that can lead to student achievement, and evaluate cost savings and revenue enhancements that directly result from investments in educational technology. District leaders and principals of schools effectively using technology are invited to participate at <http://www.projectred.org/survey.php>. Project findings will inform the new National Educational Technology Plan and will be provided to schools, districts and educational policymakers across the country. Deadline for survey completion is December 31, 2009. Contact Anna Han-

cock at ahancock@projectred.org or 303-477-1449 for more information.

Math Science Partnership Alert

School districts, RESCs and institutions of higher education are forming partnerships to run instructional coaching academies or resource collaboratives for mathematics and science teachers. School districts committed to improving student learning and school achievement in mathematics or science may participate in these partnerships without being the lead partner or fiscal agent. For additional information about the MSP professional development program or about partnerships now forming, contact Elizabeth Buttner (science): elizabeth.buttner@ct.gov or Charlene Tate-Nichols (math): charlene.tate.nichols@ct.gov.