SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Linda Oehler-Marx – School Improvement Coordinator

“Assisting in the identification and supporting the implementation of school improvement work to sustain effective practice in the most cost efficient manner.”

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS/UPDATES:

Regional Scoring
School Improvement and one of the Data Team members coordinated and implemented Regional Scoring for the ELA Assessments, grades 3-8. We checked in and randomized close to 5000 exams, coordinated Lead Scorer Training, and recruited – from districts and from the regional retired teacher population – close to 50 scorers per grade level, conducted three days of scoring at the Days Inn in Liberty, re-sorted exams by district, arranged for exam pick-ups by districts and delivered answer sheets to the Mid-Hudson Regional Information Center. We will be going through the same process for the 3-8 Math Exams the week of May 5th. We are also continuing to work on scheduling and hiring support for regional scoring of the LOTE Checkpoint A and B Exams (June), the NYSESLAT [NYS English as a Second Language Achievement Test] exams (May), the Grades 4 and 8 Science Assessments (June), the Common Core ELA and Math Exams (June), and the NYS Regents Exams (June).

Assessments
Pre/Post Development and Review
We continue to review and develop BOCES facilitated pre and post assessments to be used by districts for their Student Learning Outcomes. To that end, we continue to work with eDoctrina to generate more rigorous assessments, aligned with new test blueprints. One of our Data Team members attended a two-day training with eDoctrina in April.

Common Periodic Assessments
The multi-BOCES project will continue next year with ELA and math development sessions scheduled for June 9-10 at Broome-Tioga BOCES [BT BOCES] which we will attend.
School Improvement Workshops
We continue to work with 9th grade English teachers implementing the modules and have begun working with Science and Social Studies Middle School Teachers in Tri-Valley and Social Studies Middle School Teachers in Liberty. We are in the process of completing our brochure for summer work, which includes a roll-out of the new Social Studies Frameworks, reflections and curriculum development on Common Core ELA and Math grades 3-12, development of new advanced middle school math curriculum, support for building leadership, and a Flipped Learning Academy.

Eric Jensen
We continue to plan for implementing Eric Jensen’s Pathways to Success, a three-year plan addressing the issues students with poverty bring to the classroom. Many schools in the county will be participating, on different levels. The first session with Eric Jensen will be July 25. We have partnered with BT BOCES with this date and two dates in October to lower the cost to districts.

NYSED
ISS and School Improvement will attend NTI [Network Team Institute] in May. Additionally, NYSED has released the grant guidelines for the Teaching is the Core grant. Our districts would like to submit a BOCES-led consortium grant. Grant applications are due by May 27th. Additionally we monitor www.engageny.org and field questions from districts regarding implementation of Common Core Learning Standards [CCLS] and Annual Professional Performance Review [APPR] and continue to provide a monthly update to Assistant Superintendents at the SCCITA (Sullivan County Curriculum, Instruction, Technology and Assessment) meeting.

Principals Support
ISS and School Improvement continue to facilitate the Elementary Principals meetings and attend the Secondary Principals Meetings. We present research and strategies to the principals in an ongoing effort to address high school graduation rates. Model Schools, School Improvement and Data Services work together in order for districts to understand how all of our services are connected and how they can utilize all of us to help improve teaching and student performance.
REGIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SUPPORT CENTER

Dr. Denise Shaffer – Director of RSE-TASC

RSE-TASC is empowered to provide targeted technical assistance to school districts determined by the Office of Special Education through focused activities to improve instructional practices primarily in the areas of literacy, behavioral supports and special education services for students with disabilities.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS/UPDATES:
The RSE-TASC Coordinator attended a professional development day in Fallsburg. They had Jim Wright in to begin the dialog around how to improve their Response to Intervention (RTI) teams. The Elementary faculty have been meeting all year and having some good success with meeting protocols and offering strategies to teachers. The Jr/Sr High faculty really didn’t have an establish protocol for how to have consistent meetings across the school to ensure that would result in successful strategies for teachers. Jim was able to begin the dialog around what needed to be in place to have effective RTI teams. Both groups were given time to brainstorm what they needed to do and Jim was able to sit with each group to offer specific suggestions. For the Coordinator, it was especially helpful to be at this Professional Development (PD) event to hear what they were discussing so she could help to continue the dialog.

Much of this month has been spent on writing the new Request for Proposal (RFP) for the RSE-TASC’s next five years here at Sullivan BOCES. There were new components of the RFP that made the process more challenging than in the past. One new component was the need to select suppliers from the Minority & Women-Owned Business Enterprise list. The Coordinator was able to find suppliers that met this requirement who also were on the state bid list.

ON THE HORIZON:
- The RSE-TASC Coordinator will participate in the State led Fallsburg District DTSDE review on May 6th (Diagnostic Tool of School & District Effectiveness).
  - Each year the District and the two identified schools have to be reviewed with the rubric until the end of the waiver, which means they will have one more year of evaluation.
  - The District review focuses on the district-level teams, district leadership & district plans/procedures. The team conducting the review will be:
    - A representative from the State Education Department (SED); an SED selected Outstanding Educational Expert (OEE); a district selected OEE; a representative from the Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (R-BERN) & a representative from RSE-TASC.
HUDSON VALLEY CATSKILL PARTNERSHIP: REGIONAL ADULT EDUCATION NETWORK

Kate Hymes, Director
Mission Statement

HVCP: RAEN serves agencies and programs educating adult learners to improve the quality of service and instruction in the following areas: adult basic and secondary education, English for speakers of other languages, family literacy, and post-secondary transition to education and careers. HVCP’s goal is to improve the quality of services and instruction by providing: technical assistance, staff development and training, and information resources.

HVCP College and Career Master Teacher Professional Development: NYSES/ACCES hosted the statewide NYS TASC/Common Core Teacher Leadership Institute, March 24-27. Each RAEN recommended six (6) teachers from its region to attend. HVCP: RAEN region recommended teachers from Sullivan, Orange-Ulster, Ulster, and Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES, and City of Yonkers Public Schools. These teachers are being integrated into HVCP’s CCR Master Teacher Professional Development (CCR Master Teacher PD) which held its first workshop session, February 28. Teachers representing the above programs, as well as Southern Westchester and Rockland BOCES, and three (3) community colleges comprise the cohort of participants who will meet twice monthly to gain first-hand knowledge and practice of TASC and common core teaching strategies. Monthly workshops are scheduled through September 2014. Teachers working in teams will develop effective teaching strategies, develop lesson plans aligned with common core and develop facilitation skills so that they may share their learning with other teachers at their local program site. To date, the CCR Master Teacher PD has 1) introduced teachers to the common core standards, both NYS common core and national Adult Education common core standards as developed by the Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education (USDoE), 2) introduced components of EngageNY web site, and 3) engaged teachers in hands-on classroom activities, primarily math, they can replicate in adult education classrooms.

HVCP’s TASC/Common Core PD included the workshop, Exploring TASC Topics in Mathematics with the TI-30XS MultiView™ Calculator. The TI-30XS is the calculator used by high school equivalency test takers, both paper and online.

HVCP submitted its TASC/CCR PD proposal to NYSED/ACCES, April 9.

ITAP/Corrective Action: In collaboration with NYSED/ACCES, HVCP assisted in the identification of programs in this region who will be subject to Intensive Technical Assistance (ITAP) or Corrective Action (CA). These determinations are made upon issuance of NYS Adult Education Report Cards. Each RAEN, along with NYSED Regional, identifies three (3) programs for ITAP based on one or both of the following criteria from AE report cards: 1) fails to meet one of the state benchmarks or 2) as needing improvement. Any program identified as Unacceptable is given CA status. Beginning ‘13-’14, it is also possible for a program to be identified for CA status if it does not fulfill enrollment numbers as described in its WIA and/or EPE application. Report Card ITAP or CA designations occur following issuance of report cards. Enrollment CA designation may occur at any
time during program year when it is observed that enrollment falls below projections. HVCP’s role is to review program performance, assist programs to improve ITAP or CA status, provide technical assistance or staff development as needed, participate in meetings among ITAP or CA program staff, NYSED/ACCES staff, and NRS Accountability Staff, conduct site visits as appropriate and updating and maintaining online record of contact with ITAP and CA designated programs in HVCP:RAEN region.

**Program Managers Meeting:** Monthly meeting (April 24) with HVCP:RAEN region adult education program managers. This month’s meeting reviewed current policy and procedures for NYSED/ACCES. Program managers were presented an overview of SMARTS (an educational program for low-level adult students). Two HVCP region programs will pilot the SMARTS product for NYS. SMARTS was developed by Yonkers Public Schools in collaboration with HVCP:RAEN.

**SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEM**
**LYNN MILLER, Director**
*Our mission is to be instructional partners in preparing life-long learners for the 21st century.*

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS/UPDATES:**
We created a document that provides information for the English/Language Arts modules. For each module, we have listed by grade the text resources we have available for our schools. We differentiated the print copies, class sets and eBooks that teachers can use for each of these modules. Our next step is rolling out this information on our website as well as other curriculum links that will be useful for educators. We have begun using a platform called LibGuides that allows information access through a user-friendly interface.

We have continued our next steps in adding Vidclips to the OPAC. Besides changing file formats for compatibility, we have been able to embed a video player for ease of use by the patron.

**ON THE HORIZON:**
- We are offering computer training sessions most Tuesdays into May.
- Our last council meeting in May, will be held at Sullivan County Community College as Interim Director, Anne Larsen invited us to learn more about SCCC’s programs and resources. This visit will inform the school librarians about the students' needs to become college and career ready to attend during and after high school.
Data Analysis Service
Assist and support the identification and implementation of school improvement work to sustain effective practice in the most efficient manner.
“Transforming Data into Insight”

Jodie Pillius-MacKrell, Educational Research and Evaluation Analyst

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS/UPDATES:
Liberty Central School District: Preparation and presentation of Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) data, elementary retention data, and student attendance. After the administration of winter test results, the district has been looking at student growth from Fall 2013-14, and Winter 2012-13, as well as whether the students they held back in elementary school last year have made the gains that would be expected by giving them an extra year of instruction in reading and math. In addition, data was prepared and presented for student attendance in the middle school.

High School Principals Group Meeting on April 23: Prepared and presented a PowerPoint on Functional Language Analysis which explained why students need reading instruction after elementary school in order to understand the context of different textbooks from various disciplines, in a continuation of our on-going discussions on cross-curriculum literacy.

White Sulfur Spring Elementary School: Gathered data from the county districts to compile a database of state test scores for the students over the past three years because student data is recorded in the home district and BOCES is not given access to that data.

Monticello Central School District: Preparation and presentation of NWEA Data using the high school’s recent scores, and creating charts showing growth of students from eighth to ninth grade, in addition to NWEA data for Students with Disabilities in the elementary schools.

SC BOCES: Participated in the grading of the ELA tests, and compiled data from the eight districts in preparation for a grant.

ON THE HORIZON:
- Awaiting the release of state report cards and the state database in early May, in order to create data that is more comprehensive for the districts.
- Complete the Data Administrator’s Institute at the Mid-Hudson Regional Information Center in May.
- Summer NYS Data Analysis Technical Assistance Group (DATAG) Conference in Saratoga.
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS/UPDATES:
With initial submission complete, the SCB focus was on updating SIRS (Student Information Repository System) templates to the MHRIC (Mid-Hudson Regional Information Center) Level0. This is a bi-weekly process. Our Teachers have been working on their TSDL (Teacher Student Data Linkage) verification process, and I have been available to support them as needed.

I had the opportunity to provided support to the ELA Regional Scoring team for the three days they were scoring. This opportunity allowed me to get a better understanding of the process and procedures, while providing them with additional help needed during this intense effort.

Monticello
At Monticello our Teachers are wrapping up the TSDL verification process. There were significantly fewer issues encountered this year.

A primary focus this month has been the Elementary catchment area changes. Working with the School Management System (SMS) and our GuideK-12 software (geo-mapping of student enrollment), I have been able to provide important data to the Superintendent and other key members of the appointed team. After BOE decision was made on what physical streets to rezone, I was able to work closely with our Registrar and Transportation department on putting the necessary plans and changes in place.

This week began Kindergarten registration. It will continue into May. As a member of the MCSD Data Team, I have been able to provide support in a number of ways, including creating tracking templates, running reports, as well as, performing parent registration interviews. In the coming weeks, I will be doing many more of these interview appointments and anticipate numerous report requests once the data is entered into our SMS, so that our Administration can plan for 2014-15.

Training/Conferences
Attended the Spring District Data Coordinator (DDC) meeting at the MHRIC, a Student Management vendor demo at the MHRIC and multiple data team meetings for both Monticello and SCB.

ON THE HORIZON:
- At SCB, the focus will continue to be SIRS related items and other preparations for end of year tasks. If available, I hope to be able to provide support at the Math Regional Scoring days.
- At Monticello, Kindergarten Registration will take priority, followed by the Spring NWEA test session, which kicks off on May 5th.
Heather Strauss, Technical Data Specialist

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS/UPDATES:
3-8 Testing Coordinator – As the Coordinator for Monticello I ordered the test sheets through the Mid Hudson Regional Information Center. Once the order was completed and received back to us, we sorted the students and their rosters, repackaged the test sheets and sent them to the appropriate schools where the students will be tested. (Monticello)

3-8 Test Scoring – Utilizing prior materials, we developed new scorer lists, fielded phone calls from potential scorers, created new scoring teams, scorer IDs. Arrangements were made for the food delivery and the test materials to be delivered back and forth from the Days Inn to the safe at Rubin Pollack. (Network Team)

Revised Teacher Report Cards for 2013-14 - Teacher report cards are the summation of their observations and students’ scores for a standard APPR (State 20%, Growth 20% and Local Review 60%). Last year I developed a standardized spreadsheet for the Lead Evaluators to use in summarizing the teachers scores. This year I modified the sheet to simplify the task. Once the data is completed, a copy of the report card is given to the teacher and the Data Administrator where the information is then sent to the State Education Department. (Monticello)

Lead Evaluator Training – I completed the new teacher report card and brought it to the Lead Evaluator training for review. The Data Administrator and I made the presentation to the evaluators and a Q&A followed. (Monticello)

Training & Meetings Attended: BOCES Data Team Meeting (3/3 & 3/27); SC School Boards Association (3/7); Security Team Training (3/11), schooltool training GOTO (3/11); Monticello Data Meeting (3/17).

ON THE HORIZON:
• 3-8 Testing Coordinator – Once testing is complete, I will obtain all of the score sheets and compare them to the roster for accuracy, and to make sure all of the students who were tested, returned a score sheet. I then contact the schools and verify that any students they say that did not take the test. All score sheets and tests will then be sent to the BOCES for regional scoring. (Monticello)
• ELA Scorer Training - I will be running the ELA Scorer Training along with the School Improvement Specialist. (District Wide)
• Leadership Sullivan - I have been asked to be a presenter at the Leadership Sullivan meeting, where I will discuss the collegial work of BOCES, the SCSBA and the individual School Boards. (District Wide)
• Training & Meetings to Attend: Prospective School Boards Member Workshop (3/31); BOCES Data Team Meeting (4/24); Monticello Data Meeting (4/28).
Program Highlights/Updates:

**Arts in Education**

*Dedicated to raising the standards and levels of visual and aesthetic literacy while strengthening and supporting learning in all areas of the curriculum.*

*Jennifer Hollingshead, Arts In Education Program Assistant*

**Scholastic Art Awards**

The national award ceremony will be held on Friday, June 6th at Carnegie Hall.

**Sullivan County High School Art Show**

The High School Art Show Student Reception was held on Thursday morning, April 10th. Six out of our eight schools came with busloads of students! The students voted for the Student Choice Award in each category and enjoyed refreshments while the votes were counted. Awards were distributed to students and they were able to display them next to their artwork prior to leaving.

The Opening for the art show was held on Saturday, April 12th from 1:00-4:00pm and was well attended by teachers, students, and the public.

**Arts in Education**

Area schools are continuing to send in contracts for school performances. Students in these schools are enjoying drama, music, visual arts, literature and many other inspiring and educational performances! Other students are representing their schools by performing in NYSSMA events.
The following Model Schools workshops were offered:

- Explore the Most Popular Educational iPad Apps and How to use them
- Creating a Blended Learning Environment
- iPad Intermediate
- Bring New Life to Old PowerPoint Presentations
- Comic Strips & The Common Core

Susan Zieres Teeple, Program Coordinator Model Schools

- Continue to support the administration of My Learning Plan and the training for BOCES faculty.
- During Eldred Central School’s conference day we did an Introduction to SMARTBoard training.
- During Livingston Manor Central School’s conference day we conducted a follow-up workshop on My Big Campus. During this workshop we demonstrated how to send out paperless assignments, how teachers grade and add comments, and how the students receive grades/feedback.

E-Learning / Distance Learning
Facilitating teaching and learning by using interactive audio and video technologies.

The following videoconference / Adobe Connect connections were arranged and facilitated:

- April 7th: The Koffee Klatch was connected through RPEC, WSS, and SJS utilizing video conference technology.

Virtual Advanced Placement grant [VAP]:
We are working with Ulster BOCES on behalf of the Hudson Valley BOCES Consortium on the Virtual Advanced Placement Grant [VAP] which encompasses 13 counties, 34 school districts, and 58,216 students. Three of our six school districts, who met the requirements of this grant, [Fallsburg CSD, Liberty CSD, and Livingston Manor CSD] have a total of 21 students currently taking a
Virtual Advanced Placement online course. NYSED is currently creating an online state-wide repository so that we can expand our number of VAP grant courses to offer and increase the number of students who can participate.

**Online courses:** We are offering online classes for students through Brigham Young University [BYU] and/or Education 2020 [E2020]. We currently have 21 students enrolled in 29 online courses.

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**Technology**

*Providing professional service, support, and training that encompass educational media, technology, and infrastructure.*

The IT department responded to many support calls for help in the month of April. Audio/Video setups we completed for this year’s Annual meeting which was held on April 8th. Over the Spring break, IT completely re-terminated, consolidated, and cleaned up the wire closets in the both the “B” and “C” wings. Not only is it more aesthetically pleasing, it makes troubleshooting cable problems easier to identify. A new server was built to handle email archives. Work was performed to replace two obsolete check printers in our CBO. Five smart boards were installed to replace aging units.

IT installed a new Spam filter and Web content filter for Eldred Schools. The new filters replace non-supported devices and will increase overall internet throughput, make management easier, and increase reliability. Work was completed on the Eldred PA speaker project with the exception of four wall mounted speakers which are on back order. The project was so successful that the district has decided to expand the project to outdoor speakers in the next school year.

**Telecommunications**

The IT department worked with Time Warner and Sullivan West school district to help identify potential points of failure due to legacy equipment that is still in use in their district. Planning and work continues to remove this gear and reduce the amount of equipment required to pass data between schools and to the BOCES. The IT department also continuously monitors bandwidth for each district and reports any unusual activity.
ON THE HORIZON:

**Arts in Education**
The Scholastic Art & Writing National Awards Ceremony will be held on Friday, June 6th at Carnegie Hall, NYC.

**Model Schools**
Microsoft has invited us to their Microsoft Innovative Educator Trainers’ Seminar. This is a project-based training program for public school professional development trainers. We will learn a variety of technology integration that we will be able to re-deliver to our supporting districts faculty.
An “Hour of Code” is an opportunity for every student to try computer science for one hour. We are looking into professional development opportunities and how we can bring computer science to students in our supporting school districts.

**E-Learning / Distance Learning**
The following videoconference connections are scheduled for May:
- May 12th: Koffee Klatch will be connected through Tandberg Video Conferencing from RPEC to SJS and WSS.
- Committee meetings using AdobeConnect for NYS Models Schools, NYS Distance Learning, and NYSCATE [New York State Association for Computing and Technologies in Education].

**Technology**
The email archive on the old Lightspeed server will be migrated to a newly built server and consolidated with the new data under one search engine. A permanently mounted video conference unit is in the planning stages and work will begin on that in the month of May.

**Telecommunications**
Technicians allocated to districts continue to be onsite each week allowing these districts to better incorporate technology into their educational programs.