

NYSED Audit of The Written, Taught and Tested Curriculum

K-6 ELA/SWD
Hudson City School District

July 19, 2010

General Findings

1. Generally on the right track.
2. Much work to do.
3. Particular efforts of which to be proud.

Outline of Recommendations

Key Recommendation #1

Continue the curriculum mapping work that has been started in the district with a specific focus on developing standards-based units with specific objectives, performance indicators, assessments, and strategies being woven together, explicitly, within each unit. (Hudson Community, Grade 2, is an exemplar unit.)

Key Recommendation #2

A K-6 process for assessment data usage should be developed and implemented, expanding initiatives in this area currently underway.

Key Recommendation #3

Establish a structure and systems by which a standards-based written, taught and tested curriculum can be developed, monitored, reviewed and renewed.

- Establish this in Board of Education policy.
- Establish an internal curriculum/instructional council with a central mission of establishing and leading a curriculum development and review process.

Key Recommendation #4

Regarding structure and systems: purposeful communication about the written, taught and tested curriculum must be increased between John L. Edwards Primary School and the Montgomery C. Smith Intermediate School.

Key Recommendation #5

Professional development must move away from a menu-driven option, or a self-selected option, to an approach focused more directly on standards-based instruction and curriculum development.

Key Recommendation #6

Adjust the delivery and content of special education programming so as to assure each student receives equal access to quality instruction and to the curriculum.

- Scheduling of service providers, K-2.
- Class schedules for planning, K-2.
- Purposeful use of data-tracking for SWD students.
- Restructuring of self-contained classroom, 3-6, for purpose of state and alternative assessment pathways.

Key Recommendation #7

As is stated in the District APPR plan, the supervisory process must be closely linked to the written, taught and tested curriculum.

Summary

The Hudson City School District appears to be dedicated to and focused on serving children. However, the current effort is not meeting its potential because of the individual nature of the effort. Efforts must be systematically connected and aligned to common objectives and goals. Once aligned, continual monitoring and assessment of results must be carried out. If this occurs, then the question will not be whether the district meets minimum state standards, but rather to what degree has the district exceeded state standards.

Recommended Next Steps

1. Provide the Superintendent of Schools and his leadership staff the time to thoroughly review the Audit Report content.
2. Provide the Superintendent of Schools and his leadership staff the time necessary to assimilate the Audit Recommendations with current needs and initiatives.
3. Expect the Superintendent of Schools and his leadership staff to report back to the Board of Education on how to continue the development and implementation of a written, taught and tested standards-based curriculum, assimilating the Audit Recommendations within the current initiatives and progress being made.