



# ELA K-12 Update



December 7, 2009

# *ELA Professional Learning Community Members*

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- Karen Bronson and Deb Weisel, Facilitators
- Jon Ambrosio, ELA Dept. Coordinator
- Harry Burg, Asst. Director of PPS
- ELA 6-12 Teachers and Rita Gianfrancesco
- ELA K-5 Teachers

# ELA K-12 Goal 2009-2010

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- To develop and submit a fully articulated K-12 ELA Scope and Sequence which embodies 21<sup>st</sup> century learning and critical thinking skills
- To create a template of professional learning and collaboration which can serve as a model for other disciplines
- To explore the data provided by recent NYS testing to identify steps to raise student performance

# *What has been accomplished so far?*

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- Writing Pre-Assessment given to all students 6-12 in September to identify starting strengths and areas in need of development
- Writing Assessment for all students to be given January and June to identify growth and progress
- Writing Workshop 6-8 has replaced ELA AIS
- Review of ELA data by all 6-8 teachers
- Decision to develop and implement two writing prompts / benchmarks at each grade level: expository and creative

## *Accomplishments to date, cont'd...*

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- *Writing 6+1* implemented in 6<sup>th</sup> grade this year, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> next year:
  - Ideas, Organization, Voice, Sentence Fluency, Word Choice, Conventions + Presentation*
- *Painless Grammar* implemented in 6<sup>th</sup> grade this year, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> next year
- Schoolwide Reading Assessments: DRA in K-5, Gates in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, DRP in (6<sup>th</sup>?) 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>
- Curricular strands identified: Writing, Reading, Grammar and Conventions, Word Study, Speaking and Presentation, Listening, Research, Technology

## *As a K-12 PLC we have:*

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- Identified and gained a common understanding of the K-12 programs currently in place that will continue:
  - *Foundations (K-3)*
  - *Balanced Literacy Workshop Model (K-5)*
  - *Lit Life (K-5)*
  - *Writing 6+1 (6 {7-8})*
  - *Writing Workshop (6-8)*
  - *Writing Center (6-12)*
  - *Effective Communication (9)*

## *As a K-12 PLC we have:*

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- Identified areas that need strengthening at each grade level
- Identified the ELA competencies students have and need as they transition 5-6 and 8-9
- Identified a K-12 ELA electronic portfolio as a way to collect and demonstrate student growth in writing over time and provide a meaningful record of individual achievement

# *NCTE Beliefs about the Teaching of Writing:*

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- *“Getting better at writing requires doing it – a lot.”*
  - Writing Across the Curriculum
  - Writing Goals from All Teachers
- *“People who read get better at writing. Students need time to read in school and out. They need to choose books they enjoy. This practice makes them stronger writers.”*
  - Reading assessments will connect students to appropriate book choices
- *“Writing instruction must accommodate the explosion of technology around us.”*
  - E-portfolios, wikis, blogs, cyber literacy must be part of any new design. Art, photography, video, music embedded and integrated into curriculum and composition process.

# *The Carnegie Report: Time to Act*

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## The Carnegie Council for Advancing Adolescent Literacy:

- *“Providing all students with a challenging educational experience aimed at developing critical thinking skills and effective communication has to be at the center of everyone’s efforts.”*
- *“Providing instruction across content areas and across years in a manner that is coherent and leads to cumulative results constitute the most effective approach to instructional improvement.”*

# *What needs to be done:*

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- Identifying the skills introduced, reinforced, developed at grade level in each curricular strand
- Write the two benchmark writing prompts for each grade level (creative / expository)
- Identify fiction and non-fiction reading at each grade level and add new titles and choices appropriately
- Establishing common language and method of responding to and evaluating student writing
- Developing a research handbook for secondary grades
- Planning E-portfolio implementation for next year