

Teacher Advisory Council Q&A
February 14, 2017

Will ECPPS provide an ELA curriculum, including pacing guides and all necessary resources/materials, for its teachers at any point in the near future? If so, will this curriculum be designed by specialists or left up to teachers to develop?

Teachers, along with district instructional coach created a ELA standards pacing guide (by nine weeks) for K-5 teachers last summer. Teachers were also provided with the monthly Learning Focused skill schedule. Teachers were given those documents in August. "All" resources were not provided. However, the texts from the previous ELA kits, online resources (such as iStation, K Big Book online lessons and resources, etc...) and the K-1 phonics Letterland program are resources that have been provided. During grade level meetings teachers have shared some resources used at their schools; plus anchor chart examples have been provide for each of the monthly LF skill up to the month of February. As we move forward we will not be purchasing reading text books (basal readers). We will continue to use digital resources as this is the direction the state intends for districts to go. -
Joanne Sanders

There is a lot of talk about the REACH/CONNECT classes being cut in NC. Is ECPPS considering cutting out REACH and CONNECT teachers for next school?

This question derives from the class size mandate issue, which lowers class size in K-2. This question is understandable, but there is not an answer at this time. The answer will be shaped by the actions of the General Assembly. I can say that it is our intent to make decisions that are in the best interest of our students. It is not helpful to lose any of the arts or associated positions. That is far from an optimal solution and one that would be a last resort. At present, the House has passed two different bills that provide a solution. The Senate has declined to take up either bill as of 2/13/17. However, the Senate indicates it will consider the bill, though they have not given a timeline. As of this date, both chambers indicate there is a willingness to address the class size mandate issue, but not a full reinstatement of the flexibility we have now. --Larry Cartner

Can we use our star time for the couple of workdays in August? I am accumulating them and have not been able to use them because there hasn't been an optional workday to use them.

We will review this once the 2017-18 calendar is approved. - Larry Cartner

Biology teachers want to know if it is possible to move the proficiency score from 80 to a 60 in Biology. They feel that students are only worrying about getting a passing grade and not trying to score as high as they possibly can.

Proficiency is determined by the percent of students scoring Level 3, 4, or 5. In ECPPS, state expected grade percent and state frequency distribution in the WinScan scoring program are used to determine the 100 point converted scores for EOCs. There are local options in the WinScan program to allow ECPPS to create its own scale in a variety of ways. One method is the Level III Standard which sets letter grades to correspond closely to achievement levels. This particular method is not available for the NCFEs. The state conversion is consistent for all testing. - Jennifer Hawkins

There is only one district in the Northeast that uses a local option. Our regional accountability coordinator strongly advises against it. - Larry Cartner

Why did the transfer process change this year? In the past, this was confidential.

In the past, the transfer process was combined with employees indicating their employment intentions for the upcoming school year. This year, an employee's intent will be surveyed at the school level in order to assist the school's leadership in planning to fill potential vacancies. That process remains confidential. If an employee desires to transfer to a different school or district site, that information must be made known to principals and site supervisors so they are aware of internal candidates who may be interested in employment at their school/site. -Steve Lassiter

Why was the date for interim reports not moved back with the report card date? Now we only have just over two weeks to take grades for third nine weeks interim reports.

We did not move the end of the 3rd nine weeks. The fewer dates we move, the better. You can certainly make a comment on the interim report regarding the time spent in the class this 9 weeks if you prefer. Parents can continue to monitor Power School and see student progress and grades. - Joanne Sanders

The calendar that was most preferred by our staff members was option A. There are still some concern with not having any optional workdays or time to put toward report card conferences next year, with the number of conferences we hold.

Both Option A and Option B have time built in to the calendar for parent conferences. It is difficult meet everyone's preference in a district level calendar. Given the parameters that we have to work within, there are not a lot of options. I am always open to other suggestions and have attempted to meet as many requests as I could in the two drafts. - Larry Cartner

Is the number of required student hours/student days a district, state or national policy?

Student days and hours are set by each state. - Larry Cartner