



MILWAUKEE PARTNERSHIP ACADEMY MONTHLY REPORT January 2009

- In follow-up to the MPA Retreat on Learning Teams held in November-December 2008, a writing team was formed and has been meeting. This group will be working on some major resource pieces for Learning Teams.
- The Implementation Team continued discussion about teacher leadership in the district. A small sub-group of individuals to include various types of teacher leaders has been proposed to address teacher leadership. A group will be formed which will likely have a direct link with the Teacher & Principal Quality Work Group.
- Implementation Team members were invited to share important information for consideration by the groups for rewriting the state standards and the Next Generation Assessment Task Force which is addressing the state test.
- The MPS External Literacy Review has now been posted on the MPS portal. The Implementation Team has reviewed it, shared feedback and discussed literacy concerns and needs in the district. The MPA will be involved in next steps.
- In the efforts to model the literacy coach model after the math model, work is being done by the Comprehensive Literacy Work Group on a job description/list of necessary qualifications and supports that need to be in place. K-12 qualifications are being considered.
- Comprehensive Mathematics Work Group/Milwaukee Mathematics Partnership Update:
 - Presentations about CABS, student work and other initiatives were again made at DPI's New Wisconsin Promise event in January.
 - Monthly Math Teacher Leader meetings continue and are including a 90-minute assessment session around the work of Stiggins concerning making students aware of when and what they are learning and a 90-minute session on leadership, which offers support and tools to work with.
 - A meeting was held with released high school Math Teacher Leaders on the new math curriculum. Additional inservices and meetings around implementation of the math curriculum and the block schedule are planned.
 - Four math courses are being offered free of charge this spring at UWM for up to 35 participants each through the grant.

- Family Literacy & Tutoring Work Group Update:
 - Work is being done on tutor training. A training session has been scheduled at Marquette University for service learners, and another community-wide tutor training session will be scheduled.
 - Connection has continued with the Parent Congress, which has a core group that has been organizing. On February 21st, a community collaboration of parent organizations will take place at the Milwaukee Independent Living Center, and they will look at the area of parental involvement as it relates to the district functional plan. They will review goals and strategies and identify what role they can play.

- NEA Foundation Grant Update:
 - On January 10, 2009, another professional development day was conducted for learning team members and classroom teachers from the NEA Focus Schools. Several sessions were offered with the focus on teaching in a block schedule and quality differentiation. There were 182 teachers and administrators who participated. Feedback has been highly positive. Participants were given a variety of easy-to-use, practical classroom strategies.
 - Focus group meetings are in progress to identify areas that are impeding the progress of the work in NEA Focus Schools. A report will be developed and submitted to the NEA Steering Team in February.
 - The Pulaski High School retreat held on January 10, 2009 went well. Twenty staff members participated. The following goals and priorities emerged:
 - Revise/refine Educational Plan
 - Improve classroom instruction through discipline-specific strategies
 - Provide additional/diverse support for block scheduling/differentiating instruction
 - The Action Research Fellows are helping to present at the Holmes Partnership Conference, *Next Generation of Partnerships: Closing the Achievement Gap*, which will be held at the end of February.
 - The NEA Foundation 14th Annual Gala, *Salute to Excellence in Education*, is taking place on February 6, 2009. NEA Steering Team members will be attending.

- The Metropolitan Milwaukee Alliance of Black School Educators (MMABSE) Education Summit will be held March 25th, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the Wyndham Airport Hotel. The theme is maximizing partnerships to increase student achievement, and the keynote speaker is Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent. Implementation Team members involved in a partnership were invited to consider presenting a session. Parents and community members as well as educators are encouraged to attend. There is no fee; it is being funded by the NEA Foundation grant. Registration forms may be obtained via E-mail to Pat Ellis at paellis@stitch.edu.

The date of the next MPA Partners Meeting is TBA.

Our Mission

The purpose of the Milwaukee Partnership Academy (MPA) is to enhance the quality of teaching and learning in Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS). The broad initiative of the MPA is to ensure that every child in the Milwaukee Public Schools is performing at or above grade level in reading, writing, and mathematics through shared responsibility for student success. The framework for the initiative is balanced literacy and mathematics: a comprehensive literacy program that provides skill development across all curricular areas and focuses on reading, writing, listening, speaking, deep thinking, and research skills; a comprehensive mathematics program that provides students an understanding of mathematical concepts, an ability to accurately and appropriately compute, an ability to solve mathematical problems by applying concepts, an ability to provide reasoning to solutions to problems, and an ability to see mathematics as useful and doable.