

Hello again and greetings from USD 467!

This week the district has its second Onsite Visit for the KESA accreditation process. The visiting team is comprised of three educators that have had training from the Kansas State Board of Education to serve on a KESA visit. These three team members have many years of serving as teachers and administrators in several school districts so they have the experience to help guide us to be a better district and provide our students with the best possible education to help prepare them to be productive citizens in the future!

One of the most important resources are stakeholder volunteers to be a part of the groups. A stakeholder is anyone in the district: parents; patrons, who are not a parent but has an interest in being a part of the process; students; staff; anyone willing to volunteer to be a part of the process of school improvement. If you are one of the people willing to volunteer to be a stakeholder representative, please contact one of the building principals or me. Thanks!!

The following information is from one of the KESA documents that will be presented this week.

**What trends in building-level goal development influenced your system-level goal development?**

One of the state board outcomes from The Kansas Vision for Education is Social Emotional Character Development (SECD) Factors Measured Locally. The District Leadership Team (DLT) believes that providing a safe learning environment, which promotes student engagement and character development is an important place to start the school improvement process. The first goal is building relationships with students by providing a safe learning environment supported by a crisis plan, high student engagement in the classroom as well in extracurricular activities, and teaching character development traits. In Year One, the DLT identified that adults may need to change what and how they teach to better connect with students. Building strong relationships with their students was recommended in year one, and should continue for year two.

**How do your system goals in this Goal Area address the needs of all buildings/stakeholders?**

In year one, the DLT conducted a needs assessment, and the data analysis revealed that students' levels of engagement in their learning has changed, and social emotional needs may also need to be addressed. In year two, student perception surveys were utilized to gather additional information.

**What strategies will you employ to achieve your goals?**

In order to monitor student engagement, regular eWalk-Throughs will be conducted at WCJSHS and WCES to gather data about engagement. This data will be used to provide immediate feedback to teachers, and will guide professional development and promote change to better engage students. At the elementary level, character development traits will be introduced monthly and one student from each classroom will be chosen each week for showing the character trait of the month. The students will receive a certificate from the principal, and earn Prizes with the Principal at the end of each month. At the Jr-Sr High an advisory time has been added to seminar twice a month that addresses social and emotional development. Administrators will collaborate to develop and refine the district crisis plan.

**What professional learning will support your action plans?**

Southwest Plains Service Center offers trainings for eWalk-Through and SECD. The Kansas State Department of Education also offers training for SECD. Administrators and teachers will have the opportunity to attend these learning opportunities. In Year One, the DLT saw the need for additional collaboration time. More time for collaboration continues to be a need. The USD 467 Professional Development Council gathered information through an on-line survey completed by teachers, and the greatest need identified was training for student engagement and strategies to teach reading, writing and math.

More information from the Onsite Visit will be presented over the next few weeks.

Thank you for taking the time to read this; I hope to share the good things that are happening at USD 467! If you have specific questions or want more information about what's happening in the buildings or district, don't hesitate to contact Lori Maxwell, WCES Principal, at 375-2314, Delbert Schmidt, WCJSHS Principal, at 375-2213, or me at 375-4677. Thanks!

Educationally,

Keith Higgins, Superintendent

