

Hello again and greetings from USD 467!

A few weeks ago I gave information from goal area 2, Responsive Culture-Leadership. This week I will continue with areas which we will focus our efforts to improve student achievement.

Civic Engagement-WCES students are involved in civic engagement in a number of ways. Kindergarten implements an ABC Careers program where community members visit the classroom to talk about their career. There is a career to represent each letter of the alphabet. (i.e. A=Accountant; B=Beautician) Sixth grade organizes a canned food drive to stock the local food bank. Mrs. Gardner hosts a Veteran's Day Program annually, which brings a gym full of community members to the school to honor veterans with music and rhythmic performances. The program is also performed at the local nursing facility for the elders. Sixth grade partners with kindergarten for reading buddies. The high school students assist with WCES students for special events.

Students at WCJSHS receive instruction in geography, World, American, and Kansas history. The 12th grade Constitution class teaches Constitutional principles, rights and responsibilities, and civic participation in the democratic process. Students conduct a mock election and a mock trial. The County Clerk also visits the class to help with registering to vote. Both buildings celebrate Constitution Day with various activities. Veterans' Day activities include a breakfast for local veterans as part of a community celebration. Students recite the Pledge of Allegiance daily. District curriculum is designed to create informed, thoughtful, and engaged citizens. Grades 9-12 have also implemented a community service requirement for graduation. Each student must complete 2 hours a year, culminating into 8 hours upon graduation. This requirement allows our students to work for others and learn about generosity and giving. We also have several different student organizations that are service oriented, such as NHS, KAYS, STUCO and FFA.

#### COMPLIANCE

1. Describe the processes/structures you have in place to ensure that your system is compliant with state and federal regulations and statutes?

The same processes are in place for year 2, and USD 467 is in compliance with Federal and State regulations at this time. Mr. Higgins, (Superintendent), Tammy Mason (Board Clerk), and Jana Simon, (Director of Federal, State and Local Programs), work together to make sure all reports and grant applications are filed in a timely manner and not missed. When any of the three receive a reminder from the government they forward it to the others making sure that the correct person deals with the information they need. This current system has been used for about a year, and has fulfilled the following requirements:

1. LCP Annual Report for prior years
2. ESEA Consolidated Review for 2018-19 which included: Title I, Title IIA, Migrant, Title III/ESOL, At Risk and Title IV
3. Application for 4 year old At Risk Preschool Program
4. Reviewed Homeless Grant – decided not to apply – due to requirements to remain in compliance. (Attend: 2 state meetings at Topeka; 1 national meeting wherever held)

Educator Licensure - Licenses and endorsements are checked for all certified staff to ensure they meet the Kansas State Board of Education standards for licensure, which includes fingerprinting and a background check. An annual report is submitted to KSDE to verify the district is compliant with licensure. New teachers are assigned mentors. There is a locally written mentoring program that has been approved by KSDE. Mentors receive \$500, meet monthly or more often with administrators and new teachers. The mentoring program is now a 2 year program for new teachers.

System Professional Development Plan - Professional development requirements are managed by Southwest Plains Regional Service Center. The local committee meets monthly to stay current with PD plans. The district complies with annual staff development trainings (Emergency Safety Interventions, Jason Flatt Act, Bloodborne Pathogens, etc.). A PDC Survey was given to all teachers in the fall, and the results will be used to guide professional development.

Educator Evaluation - Teachers are evaluated using the e4E tool. Teachers in their first two consecutive school years shall be formally evaluated at least twice a year, once each semester by no later than the 60th day. Teachers with three or four years of employment in the district shall be formally evaluated annually by February 15th. Teachers in their fifth year and beyond shall be evaluated at least once every three years, no later than February 15th.

The purpose of evaluation is to provide for the improvement of instruction, and guide professional development. Though not a part of the evaluation process, the eWalk-Through tool is used to provide feedback to teachers regarding teaching and student engagement.

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