

MOESC Board Report

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Teaching and Learning

1. We are excited to welcome Ally Schleichert to the T&L and Gifted teams. She will spend one or two days per week serving as a Gifted Consultant in Mid-Ohio districts. She brings a background in special education, mathematics, intensive interventions, and the new dyslexia law, making her an idea fit for the Teaching and Learning team. She will spend her other days assisting in contracted districts in the areas of mathematics and structuring evidence-based intervention practices.
2. We are wrapping up service in our five (5) contracted districts to complete the 2020 – 2021 school year. We have four districts contracted so far for 2021 – 2022: Lucas (1 unit); Northmor (1) unit; Madison (1 – 1.5 units); and Mansfield City (2 units). Crestline has yet to inform us if they are contracting again for service. I spoke with the curriculum director at Mt. Gilead, who is interested in possible services; she will let me know in June.
3. I am in the beginning stages of planning to host two professional development events to prepare our districts for the new dyslexia law, which requires a specific approach to teaching reading called Structured Literacy. This requires training for teachers to teach explicit phonics and other reading skills. ODE is rewriting the kindergarten and grade one Ohio Learning Standards for ELA (Foundational Skills section) to match this systematic way of teaching. Many of us will recognize some of these skills if we were taught to read using a structured approach to phonics by matching sounds and letters to decode words.
 - a. In November, we will host Dr. David Kilpatrick, a nationally-recognized authority on structured literacy and intervention for struggling readers and those with disabilities. ODE recognizes him for his work and uses it in state-level trainings for literacy.
 - b. In August, we will host Orton-Gillingham training for teachers to learn the required multi-sensory approach to structured literacy. The new law requires this approach for teachers to be able to work with dyslexic students.
4. The team is also keeping current on evidence-based practices in mathematics, effective district and building level structures for reading, assessment practices, and other topics related to the many services we provide to districts.

Gifted Services

1. Student events were completed on May 12 with the last Academic Challenge matches.
2. The team announced the book studies to be offered this summer, fall, winter, and spring. Teachers are able to receive hours toward their required gifted professional development and can sign up for Ashland University graduate credit. This is a very popular offering in our districts.
3. The team is preparing for 2021 – 2022 this month and wrapping up their current services. Despite the myriad challenges of COVID, the consultants provide their usual level of outstanding support. Ally Schleichert will be joining a wonderful team!

Striving Readers Grant

The grant will be completed by June 30, 2021, and Dena Kirby is wrapping up the last major project: Virtual Kindergarten Boot Camp. I spoke briefly about this in my presentation last month, and the professional-looking Striving Readers Grant and Kindergarten Boot Camp websites are in their final

stages of construction. Dena said they should be ready for the June Board meeting should you wish to preview the materials.

Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant

1. Lisa Cook and Kelly Britton are busy this month collecting student achievement data and determining the level of implementation for the grant's activities this year. Their leaders' meeting on June 7 will provide detailed information and data to refine the professional development and grant activities to be completed in 2021 – 2022.
2. Lisa's Power Point presentation last month detailed many of the activities and professional development sessions they have been facilitating and directing. Lisa and Kelly continue to work weekly in the two model sites: Mansfield Springmill STEM Elementary and Plymouth-Shiloh Elementary. The teachers are growing in their understanding and ability to implement structured literacy theory and classroom practice, which is resulting in gains in student achievement.
3. Kalin Wilburn, who constructed the Striving Readers Grant website, is also creating one to house all of the CLSD materials and archived professional development. This will be a powerful resource during the grant period but also when it ends in three years. At that time, everything on the website will be available to all educators.
4. The Teaching and Learning team uses the same approach to structured literacy and attends state and SST 7 literacy trainings with Kelly and Lisa, so we are providing that background already to teachers in our contracted districts.
5. The coaches are preparing responses and data to answer a detailed monitoring survey due to ODE in early June. ODE has also scheduled a virtual site visit on June 7 to review the survey answers and evaluate gains made by the grant in 2020 – 2021. I will join Lisa and Kelly for the meeting.

Thank you for your support of all the work!