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Director of Student Services
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Grants (High Ability, Title II, Title IV)

The 2019-20 Title IV grant has been approved.

At the October 3 High Ability conference, the emphasis was on “Special Populations in Gifted Education”. For TCSC, we need to be aware of any students in special education, 504, and English Language Learners that would qualify for high ability, but need a more unique way of addressing the classroom curriculum. This fits in well with our UDL emphasis that is being initiated corporation wide.

Assessments

I am continually sending all schools updated information on ILEARN, I AM, IREAD3, ISTEP+10, WIDA, and ISPROUT. The teaching staff in all buildings are to be working on their TA certification. Those certifications are to be completed by November 18 for the elementary and middle school. The system readiness test will be conducted for the elementary and middle school between November 18 and November 27. The principals are to coordinate the date and time so that both schools are testing the system at once. The high school teachers are to have their TA certification completed prior to administering the ISTEP+10 retests and the ILEARN Biology test. Both tests require practice tests to be given prior to the actual test.

I now have full access to CogAT so that I can upload students and revise staff information. All students and staff are loaded into the system and the testing session has been scheduled to start on December 5 in order to address any possible last minute issues. The CogAT test will begin on December 10 for kindergarten, 2nd, 5th, and 8th graders as part of our High Ability identification.

I arranged for Ann Puckett-Harpold from the M.A, Rooney Foundation to attend the administrators’ meeting on October 8. She worked with the elementary and middle schools last school year to help us prepare for the new ILEARN test. She provided information and strategies to work on with staff concerning the results of the ILEARN test. Principals have been sharing that information and strategizing with staff. Principals are to set up times for Ann to meet with elementary and middle school grade level teams.

I have been assisting principals with accessing the reports from ILEARN. I am working on data to look at the Performance Series fall and winter results from the 2018-19 school year and how they compare with the 2019 ILEARN results. I am specifically looking at the percentage of students at each grade level who maintained proficiency, lost proficiency, gained proficiency, and did not gain proficiency on ILEARN from Performance Series. This should give us an indication of how we did with core instruction and intervention instruction, and provide discussion points for principals and teachers. I will also be looking at growth data from 2018 to 2019 to determine our progress.

I have set up a demonstration for administrators to look at the AirWays test that could take the place of Performance Series. AirWays is administered by the same system and in the same way as ILEARN. The question types in AirWays also highly correlates with the question types on ILEARN. We will also be looking at NWEA as another possible test to replace Performance

Series. Both AirWays and NWEA are able to be funded through the Formative Assessment Grant where Performance Series is not.

MTSS

The MTSS committee will meet on November 13. During that meeting, we will discuss the results from each building on the IN-SAM (Indiana Self-Assessment of MTSS) in order to determine any further professional development from the state that might be needed. We will also discuss the progress of each school in identifying students and the intervention process being used.

Review360

We now have all staff loaded and all students paired with the appropriate staff. The elementary is in the process of teachers evaluating their students' social/emotional needs. Middle and high school teachers are ready to begin this process. Teacher evaluations of students are to be completed by Thanksgiving break. We will begin the student self-assessment the first part of December. We will notify parents and provide them with the opportunity to opt out of the student self assessment if they wish. We will complete the student self-assessments by Winter break. We we return in January, the counselors will begin looking at the data to determine the need for individual student social/emotional intervention.

Social/Emotional

I will be meeting with Four County personnel, the middle school administration, and counselors on November 7 to discuss how programming is proceeding.

State Reports

I continue to monitor state report beginning and ending dates to attempt to keep buildings informed. I have completed the upload of the WIDA TA report. I will be assisting Michelle Dunham with the Language Minority report that is due to be uploaded by November 15. Amy Phillips has completed the Certified Employees report. The individual schools can now complete the Certified Positions report followed by the Course Completion report. I will monitor schools on these reports.

Special Education

I attended the October KASEC coordinators meeting with Michelle Dunham. Michelle meets with me regularly to keep me informed of any issues. I will continue to sit in on case conferences as needed. I have been assisting Michelle with one of our new students attending Western in working out transportation with Scott Wessel and the provision of an aide. Michelle and I met with personnel from Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Pre-Employment Transition Service to discuss assisting our special education teachers starting in the 7th grade with information for parents and to start including this in special education transition plans and IEP's. Special education teachers, Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Pre-Employment Transition Services will develop plans during the eLearning day on the afternoon of November 7.

Library

I will be doing an observation on November 7.

School Safety

I will be attending the corporation safety meeting on November 14.

Other Items

I continue to help with and answer questions concerning Harmony, accessing student data for special education testing requests, accessing various Performance Series and ILEARN reports.