

Collaborative School Committee Update

October 30, 2008

The Edison Collaborative School Committee (CSC) spent the month of October revising the School Improvement Plan (SIP). Tracy Dorland, Edison's Instructional Superintendent, attended the first meeting of the month to discuss Edison's results on the District's new school performance framework and to help the CSC identify strategies for increasing Edison students' academic growth. The Edison leadership team joined the CSC in later meetings to provide input on practical action items.

The CSC decided to focus on SIP components that emphasize consistent instruction across grade levels and differentiated instruction for all students. Consistent instruction requires use of the same curriculum or strategies in all classrooms. Differentiated instruction recognizes the varying aptitudes and learning styles of individual students within a given classroom and provides diverse learning opportunities in support of individual students' academic needs, focusing on not only on the lowest-performing but also the highest-performing students. The revised SIP incorporates the following curriculum pieces that emphasize consistency and differentiation:

Implement Accelerated Reader in all first through fifth grade classrooms. Accelerated Reader (<http://www.renlearn.com/ar/>) is an online progress monitoring and assessment tool for independent reading. Parents will receive additional information about Accelerated Reader later in the school year.

Participate in daily, guided reading groups. Guided reading develops literacy skills by engaging small groups of students in the reading process, often including initial predictions about a book's contents, reading out loud with the other students in the group, and responding to the text.

Regular use of writing prompts to assess student progress toward grade-level writing standards.

The revised SIP also recognizes the need for parent/guardian support in achieving academic growth. To facilitate communication between school and home, the SIP encourages parent/guardian participation in parent-teacher conferences and involvement in Edison Family Nights, such as Fall Festival and Literacy Night. Also, all teachers will send home newsletters at least monthly to inform parents/guardians of classroom projects and other activities.

Ms. Christy submitted the revised SIP to the District on Friday, October 24th. After the SIP undergoes a peer review and receives approval, the CSC will post the revised SIP to Edison's Google Group so that parents/guardians can access it. The CSC is scheduled to meet again at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12th, in Mr. Hudnall's classroom. The CSC welcomes your attendance at its meetings.