

CURRICULUM REPORT

I. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for IMAGE Students

Recently, the Illinois State Board of Education distributed AYP results for English Language Learners (ELL) assessed with the Illinois Measure of Annual Growth in English (IMAGE) for the 2003-2004 school year.

Itasca School District has attained AYP for the 2003-2004 IMAGE scores.

In that Itasca School District receives Title III funds, it was mandatory that our district attained AYP for the scores received.

II. Teacher Certification

The process in which teachers receive certification has significantly changed. The changes affect initial and existing certificate holders. In addition to the changes in the rules for attaining certification, the steps to the complete the process have become the responsibility of the certificate holder with use of technology.

While the rules for completion of staff development remains constant, options include workshops for meeting the needs of students with disabilities.

Timelines have been set for initial certificate holders moving towards standard certificates. Furthermore, standard certificate holders are following strict guidelines on renewal.

Linda Schaschwary and myself have been teaming together to ensure the successful transfer of this responsibility to our staff. By attending evening information meetings, we are gathering our packet of direction into a presentation to our staff. We are confident that the process will go smoothly as we share the information on re-certification, which will be their responsibility for completion. As of next week, Linda Schaschwary will be providing a presentation to teachers with standard certificates that are to be renewed by April 2005. At a later date, we will also provide a workshop for teachers with initial certificates, which require renewal by June 2005.

III. Review of Industrial Technology at Peacock Middle School

Within the packet to Itasca School Board members, a file has been provided that contains a listing of the course content for the Industrial Technology class at Peacock Middle School. The contents of the file are the same as the materials shared during the 2003-2004 school year, as well as an additional form that describes reinforcing elements of instruction within the science curriculum.

Meetings have been completed with all content area specialists regarding any and all content correlated to their area of instruction, which may also be taught within Industrial Technology. The outcome of the meetings was the same for all content areas. In summary, there was no direct overlap or repetition of instruction with any of the content areas. Although no repetition of instruction was identified, the teachers found it beneficial to share their timeline of instructional content so that the Industrial Technology teacher would have access to the yearly timeline in which concepts were taught.

Application of several concepts within Industrial Technology was found throughout the curriculum. For example, in the building of bridges, students utilized mathematical skills involving fractions. The application rather than overlap of the concept provided for reinforcement of the skill. In the area of science, Industrial Technology more closely utilizes similar concepts that are used to build upon advanced technology within the lessons. Industrial Technology focuses on how students present the content, whereas science instructors focus on their curricular content.

Acquired from the meetings, the issue of timing of instruction is being addressed. From a review of instruction within the Industrial Technology course, all contents of the course were deemed important. Due to time constraints, the third unit of study has not always been implemented with students. Therefore, an outcome of this review of the Industrial Technology's lesson plans has been to restructure the curriculum so that all students are provided with technology instruction. Specifically, the use of technology (computer lab) is being revised to become more of an integrated approach throughout each quarter, rather than being the last instructional unit.

On-going in the future months, the course content will continue to be analyzed. As always, we strive to provide outstanding instructional activities to reinforce and build upon skills.