



# Curriculum Highlights

## Memo

**To:** Dr. Mary Whitrock  
**From:** Christine Damm  
**Date:** October, 2024  
**Re:** Curriculum Department Highlights for October

- 1. Assessment Updates** – The preliminary and secure versions of the 2022-23 report cards in SAFE were released on October 9. As in prior years, there is a brief period during which schools and districts can open an inquiry with DPI if they notice discrepancies in student-level data. The public release of final school and district report cards is scheduled for November 19. Results will be shared during the November meeting, upon public release of the data.
- 2. 2024 State Assessment Data Release** – The 2024 state assessment data went public via the WISEDash public portal on October 8. The release of the Statewide assessments provides a common measure of achievement across students in the State and allows us to make comparisons to neighboring districts. I will be sharing a public press release in the coming week, which will also be posted under the News section of our district website.
- 3. Professional Development Days** – The focus of our monthly professional development days at the elementary buildings continues to be on literacy training required by the new ACT 20 literacy law. 4K-5 literacy teachers continue to work through online modules in their grade level teams, which will be studied in greater depth next month with our literacy leadership team and CESA 6 literacy partner. I worked with High School staff to align their identified skills-based grading criteria with the ACT standards and benchmarks. They will continue to refine their skills throughout the year to ensure that students are prepared for not only the upcoming ACT exams, but for their post-high school careers.
- 4. Learning Walk Academy** – The administrative team, along with Jill Puhlmann-Becker and Carrie McCarthy, are part of a Learning Walk Academy to help us identify strengths and areas for development to systematically improve instruction. The focus of improvement is around best practices identified in the summer training of Responsive Classroom (4K-5) and Developmental Designs (6-12). After developing specific look-fors that we expect teachers to be implementing, team members had the opportunity to conduct learning walks at all four buildings to practice the process and norm our lens of expectations. We will continue to refine the process and seek input from teachers as we look to also bring teachers on board to take part in learning walks as part of a peer coaching/observation model. The literacy leadership team will look to expand learning walks into literacy as we continue to implement best practices for literacy instruction. Learning Walks can be applied to all areas, as it is a model for identifying strengths and potential areas of improvement.

- 5. ACT 20 Required Screener Update** – Our elementary Literacy Interventionists completed the initial screening of all K-3 students using the state selected literacy screener, aimswebPlus. While the fall screener was not required for the 2024-25 school year under the new ACT 20 literacy law, RASD decided to pilot the screener to acclimate students and test administrators to the process and provide preliminary data. The screener is used to identify students scoring below the 25th nationally normed percentile based on specific grade-level criteria. Starting in January 2025, any student identified below the 25% will need to receive further diagnostic screening, with the results used to develop a personalized reading plan. Parents must be notified of the plan and progress monitoring will be used throughout the semester to help determine growth prior to the final end of year screener. Preliminary fall screener data identified 29% of Kindergarten students, 62% of Grade 1 students, 56% of Grade 2 students, and 48% of Grade 3 students. While these percentages are higher than we anticipated, it provides opportunities to target specific universal practices for improvement and specific interventions for students prior to the first required winter screener.
  
- 6. Course Updates** – Each of the departments at the high school have reviewed their course offerings and have made recommendations for the 2025-26 Course Description Book, which has been added as a Possible Upcoming Action item to this month's agenda. Students will be receiving scheduling guidelines by grade level and the Academic & Career Planning Guide continues to be organized by department. The course descriptions can also be accessed through Infinite Campus when students register. Students will be registering for their 2025-26 courses using Infinite Campus in January.