Tentative Concurrent sessions Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Follow-up to Keynote Presentation Dr. Jim Kern

The Mystery of the Kansas Math Assessment Data - - Solved!

This session is designed to teach participants how to solve the mystery of the Kansas Math Assessment Data. Participants will learn specific techniques to complete an in-depth analysis of the data. The data can then be used to identify specific indicators for schools or districts. This information can then help a school or district focus on areas of weakness to help meet or exceed AYP expectations. Ideas will also be shared as to how USD 443 is using the data to improve teaching and learning in Dodge City.

Presenter: Cherry Deges, Principal Linn Elementary School
Joyce Warshaw, Principal Miller Elementary School

This presentation is appropriate for all levels.

Thinking Maps

Thinking Maps, developed by Dr. David Hyerle, are visual teaching tools that foster and encourage lifelong learning. The eight maps are based on a simple yet profound insight: The one common instructional thread that binds together all teachers, from pre-kindergarten through postgraduate, is that they all teach the same thought process.

Presenter: Mindy Applegate, Southwest Plains Regional Service Center

This presentation is appropriate for all levels.

Is This A trick Question?

Learn how to prepare more clear, fair, and valid test questions. We will learn some tips on writing multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, true/false, matching and essay questions. Workbook provided.

Limited to first 60 participants.

Presenter: Ann Mah, Public Representative, Kansas NCA State Committee

This presentation is appropriate for middle and high school levels.

AYP and Foreign Language: No Subject Left Behind

This presentation will focus on the curricular infusion of effective instructional strategies with respect to AYP at Salina High School South and how they can be successfully adapted and evaluated in the foreign language classroom. Principal Myron Graber will provide an overview of South High’s instructional philosophy and subsequent results. Foreign language-specific strategies will then be offered by Spanish instructor Chris Jochum.

Presenters: Myron Graber & Chris Jochum
Salina High School South

This presentation is appropriate for middle and high school levels.

Discussion Forum: Sharing Ideas for AYP

This will be an open forum for participants to share what individual schools and districts are doing to comply with the Adequate Yearly Progress measure required by No Child Left Behind. The session will be led by members of the Kansas North Central Association State Committee.

This presentation is appropriate for all levels.

Erasing the lines of the “School Improvement” Box – A departmental approach to program improvement.

Imagine forming 12 school improvement committees as opposed to the “traditional” three reading, writing, and math/problem solving committees. Impossible? Crazy? Insane? Not really. Listen as the Manhattan High School building team discusses the evolution of this non-traditional approach to school improvement. This session will focus on the transition from cycle 2 to cycle 3, faculty participation and departmental leadership.

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writing real, usable goals and developing authentic local assessments that support implementation of the school improvement plan.
Presenters: Tina Schaub & Jessica Shurts, Manhattan High School NCA building co-chairpersons; Mr. Terry McCarty, Building Principal
This presentation is appropriate for middle and high schools.

**Changing Perceptions, One Student, One School, and One Community At A Time**
See your students improve their grades, enjoying learning, feeling good about themselves and being accountable. See your staff’s renewed love of teaching by simply removing the artificial walls that separate them from each other. The FACES project is designed to break down walls by removing negative fear-based attitudes and perceptions through a unique and experiential training program. Through the successful implementation of the FACES, Inc. programs, expect to see dramatic declines in the number of violent acts, bullying, delinquency and other negative behaviors. These goals will be accomplished and evident through students and staff becoming models of excellence and leaders in their families, schools, and communities.
Presenter: Cheryl Abla, Southwest Plains Regional Service Center, & Paul Lavelle
This presentation is appropriate for all levels.

**Six Thinking Hats**
Learn about a sophisticated and fun problem solving method so simple, even young children can get it. Encourage students to use higher-level thinking skills they can use in school and life.
Presenter: Ann Mah, Public Representative, Kansas NCA State Committee
This presentation is appropriate for all levels.

**Can We Make AYP? Yes, We Can! How Ross Elementary used Teamwork, Goal Setting & Formative Assessments to Make AYP.**
This session will describe the process that Ross Elementary used to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in Math. The percentage of students scoring in the Proficient Range increased from 42.2% to 69.4% using this process. This type of success was accomplished at a school where 72% of the students receive Free or Reduced Price Lunch. Gains were also made on the Metropolitan Achievement Test. Come to this session and see how your school can apply the same concepts!
Presenters: Robin Allen, Melanie Wallace, Randy Atherly, Ross Elementary School
This presentation is appropriate for all levels.

**What We Packed on Our Journey to School Improvement**
School improvement, much like the Beatles’ song is a “long and winding road.” In the school improvement process there is no “as the crow flies” superhighway. There ARE potholes, hills, rivers filled with alligators, and even some quicksand upon occasion. In retrospect, the Beatles had it easy – they were trying to move just four guys who spoke the same language. In the last ten years the Dodge City High School population has doubled to almost 1700 students, 56% of who are minorities (65% of those are ELL students). Around 50% of our students qualify for free and reduced lunches, and the percentage of adults in our community who are high school graduates stands at 25%, compared to the state average of 19%. In order to make the education journey possible for all of the students in our diverse population we have initiated a plethora of programs, strategies, and activities for our students, as well as for our staff, and WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS. We can’t give you a detailed roadmap, an ETA, or even any promise of rest stops along the way to school improvement, but we’d like to share with you some of the scenic highlights (and lowlights) of our trip thus far.
P.S. Comfortable shoes and a snack are recommended—school improvement is hard work and our principal sets a rapid pace!
Presenters: Cindy Moore, English Teacher and Steering Committee Co-Chair, Dodge City HS, Goldie Wood, Spanish Teacher and Steering Committee Co-Chair, Dodge City HS, and Jacque Feist, Principal, Dodge City High School
This presentation is appropriate for all levels.
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**District Accreditation Model**
This presentation will explain the new “systems” accreditation for full membership districts. Not only are all schools accredited via NCA, but also at the district level. Hutchinson School District is serving as a pilot district for this new model.

Presenter: Jean Ann Petz, Director of School Improvement, Hutchinson Public Schools, and NCA Commission Staff

This presentation is appropriate for all levels.

**Moving From “School on Improvement” to “Standard of Excellence”**
Wilson Elementary School started the 2002-2003 school year as a “School on Improvement.” The school ended the school year having achieved the Standard of Excellence on all three state assessments (Math, Reading, and Science). Wilson staff will share strategies explaining just how this was achieved.

Presenters: Tom Meagher, Principal, and Staff members Wilson Elementary School, Hays

This presentation is appropriate for elementary levels.

**From “On Improvement” to “Standard of Excellence”**
This session will demonstrate how Logan Jr. High School went from being on third year improvement to meeting the standard of excellence in one year. Teachers will share strategies, interventions, and school-wide incentive plans that worked for their students. Join these presenters as they share their success story.

Presenters: Kathleen Sooter, Shelley Lane, Meg Zeller Logan Jr. High School

This presentation is appropriate for all levels.

**Math Simulation /Staff Collaboration**
Instructional strategies addressing the Kansas math curricular standards will be highlighted through simulations that involve real life application. This presentation includes both teacher generated and purchased math simulations for Kindergarten through fifth grades. Presenters will also amplify staff collaboration and staff development necessary for maximum learning.

Presenters: Nancy Harman and Tamara Tjeerdsma, O’Loughlin Elementary School, Hays

This presentation is appropriate for elementary levels.

**Impact of Character Education on Kennedy Middle School Climate**
The citizenship goal implemented by our school was: All students will improve in modeling positive citizenship in the school and school-sponsored community setting. Attendees will have the opportunity to see activities used, assessments utilized to measure improvement and hear from a group of students that graphed the school data.

Presenters: Donna Hohman, Carolyn Fuller, Sherry Kinderknecht, and students Kennedy Middle Schools, Hays

This presentation is appropriate for middle school levels.

**“No Staff Members Left Behind”**
NCA teamwork at Eisenhower Middle School. During this session the building NCA co-chairs, counselor and principal will discuss NCA teamwork within their building. Learn how they involve the whole staff in NCA, which has resulted in a positive experience and group ownership of the improvement process. Guaranteed to be upbeat and entertaining.

Presenters: Sean Hollas, Sara McDonald, Jerry Longabaugh, and San Martin, Eisenhower Middle School, Goddard

This presentation is appropriate for all levels.