

# *Avon Public Schools Teaching and Learning Update*

## *Spotlight for November 2017*

On November 3rd, the Business department will begin their formal review process. The team will launch their work by identifying the standards that will guide their work, as well as create long term transfer goals, understandings, and essential questions. The first two areas of focus in this department will be personal finance and marketing.

The upcoming district-wide professional development day has been designed K-8 and 9-12, with a few additional small sessions. K-8 certified staff will rotate through three two-hour workshops that continue the work that has begun in terms of making the curriculum accessible to all students. The workshops include Breaking Down Barriers: Behaviors/Classroom Management; Student Engagement: Effective Instructional Groups; and Interim Assessments (including the 3-8 Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments). The high school staff will begin their day participating in two one-hour activities focused on Meeting the Legal Needs of All Students and Capstone. For the remainder of the day, the Attendance Review, Capstone, Faculty Advisory Council, Innovation and Technology, NEASC, Scheduling, and School Improvement committees will meet to begin and/or advance their work in these areas. Finally, the PreK teachers, School Counselors, School Psychologists, Speech Language Pathologists, and Occupational Therapists will be meeting as small groups with agendas specific to their discipline.

This month the Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) training for K-6 reading consultants, selected special education teachers, and intervention tutors will commence. LLI is a research-based early intervention program for students who struggle with reading and writing. This program will be used for Tier III intervention in the area of reading.

In October, the U.S. Department of Education approved Connecticut's statewide student science assessment waiver request. This means that in the spring, the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment Field Test will be administered in Grades 5, 8, and 11. The CMT and CAPT science assessment will no longer be administered. As this is a field test, no science assessment scores will be issued for districts, schools, or students for 2017-18. Districts will however be held accountable for participation in the field test.

Last month at the first CPDC meeting, Council members finalized the SRBI Behavioral Reference Chart they had been developing over the course of the last year. The chart focuses on four areas: behavior, emotional, social, and executive functioning. For each area there are details for Tier I, II, and III that explain what it looks like (observable); how can/do we prevent, teach, and respond (strategies and techniques); and how do we set goals, collect data, and analyze. This document is intended to guide conversations and be used as a resource. In the spring, the Council will revisit their work to determine if the document served its intended purpose, if there need to be any modifications or additions, and to determine next steps in advancing our practice in this area.

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Finally, beginning with the first marking period this year student's Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA), Degrees of Reading Power (DRP), and Benchmark Assessment System (BAS) scores will be indicated on their report card. The following sheet will be distributed with the report card and is [linked here](#) for your reference.

### *Calendar of Events*

- ❖ November 2 Business Curriculum Writing, Central Office Meeting Room Two 7:30 - 2:30
- ❖ November 3 Performing Arts Curriculum Writing, AHS Community Room 8:00-3:00
- ❖ November 6-7 Level Literacy Intervention Training, AHS Community Room 8:00 - 3:00
- ❖ November 7 District-wide Professional Development Day, 8:00 - 3:00