



Math

- **Fellows**
We now have 25 Mathematics Fellows representing over 16 districts; we are growing! Our focus this year is learning about and implementing Mathematically Productive Instructional Routines which result in opening up mathematical learning for both educators and the students they impact. We are reading *Mathematical Mindsets* by, Jo Boaler which asks for teachers and schools to consider inviting all students to participate in higher level mathematics tasks and courses.
- **Bridge to College Mathematics**
Bridge to College Mathematics teachers have met twice this year to create assessments and determine what a “B” looks like. This course exists in thirteen districts throughout our region and will most likely be facilitated regionally by the NWESD next year.
- **Math Learning Network**
We have registered 26 members and held our first meeting on October 5th. This network is for educators who want to learn ways to highlight student thinking and improve their classroom instruction. We will focus this year on equity and access to mathematics for all students. Our learning will continue to be supported by *Principles to Actions* by NCTM. Future meeting dates include: December 8, February 28, and a final date to be determined.
- **Sci/Math Network**
NWESD is working to bring a local, integrated approach to Science and Mathematics learning for our teachers and students beginning in January, 2017. Participants will engage in a real life phenomenon, experience a learning cycle outlined in the Next Generation Science Standards while incorporating Science, Mathematics and English Language Arts standards. We will offer three days of a three-hour module in [Whatcom](#) and [Snohomish](#) Counties. Follow the link above to register for the course.
- **Ratio and Proportion**
Math Teachers will have a time to explore Ratio and Proportion to better understand the models that build sense making and connecting to concepts in their future mathematics courses. Two session dates are February 2 and March 16 from 4-7 PM at NWESD for grades 6-8. Follow this [LINK](#) to register.
- **SPHERO**
Teachers will have an opportunity to learn how to integrate science, engineering, technology and mathematics in this STEM course. They will learn how to control a Sphero initially using an app on their Android or IOS device and be introduced to coding as a means to drive their Sphero. The all-day course is on March 1 at NWESD and supports teachers in providing their students in problem solving involving technology. Follow this [LINK](#) to register.

Science

- **In NGSS the goal of effective instruction is *not* the content:** the goal is equitable access to explaining phenomena *and* designing solutions to problems by *using* the content (DCI's and CCC's) *through* the science and engineering practices.
- **Science Learning Network** has launched and will reconvene 01/10 and 03/28 to engage in critical friends' group feedback.
- **Science Fellows** convened 10/04-05 in Vancouver WA. Action plans have been started. District sponsors should have met with Fellows already.
Make-Up Day 12/14
Convening 3 on 02/21
Convening 4 on 04/25
- **Transition Plans** published by OSPI take about 4 years. For many reasons, it is highly unlikely a district to transition in less time. Want to learn more? Talk to me to find out more about how to begin the transition process within your district.
- **Whatcom Science Collaboratory** launched 11/04. Convening's on 01/13, 03/10, 04/28, and 05/12. All convening's are located at Meridian School District except for 05/12 which may be abroad in the field as a studio day.
- **Partnership for Ambitious Science Teacher Leaders (PASTL)** held first Reflective Planning Day (RPD) #1 on 10/27. Teachers have been signing up through EventBrite for Studio Days. Studio Days are at various locations.
RPD #2 on 01/24
RPD #3 on 03/23
- **Deep Dive into NGSS** classes continue monthly.
- **NGSS Overview for Principals** [<https://goo.gl/ty0PxZ>] is a document released by Achieve Inc. to help principals begin making sense of the NGSS. The document is a great beginning conversation and I am available to facilitate those first conversations if that is helpful.
- **NGSS Performance Expectations (PE's) are not Learning Targets.** They are not the focus of instruction and may -- in fact -- be inappropriate for instruction. They serve as assessable system-level accountability levers to promote equity in science education.

Science Materials Center

- Concept-based curriculum and instruction units have been started by 13 intrepid teachers across the SMC. Grant funds are available for subs to support teachers who do this work with us.
- Cooperative meeting scheduled for January 18, 2017. Save the date!

English & Language Arts

- **Washington Reading Corps (WRC):**
WRC members serve as reading tutors in early learning centers, elementary schools, and community-based programs. NWESD has 45 WRC members, more than any other ESD. State training was held in October, and our first regional training was Nov. 4.
- **SBA Interim Assessment Blocks (IAB):**
This is a reminder that there are 9 IABs for English-Language Arts: *Reading-Literary Texts; Reading-Informational Texts; Research; Brief Writes; Language-Vocabulary; Editing; Revising; Listening; and Performance Task*. The IABs can be used as formative assessment and provide useful information for teachers to plan instruction. There will be a SBA Interim Assessment workshop on **Jan. 10** from 9-noon at NWESD. Contact Anita at agarcia@nwesd.org to register.
- **Literacy Learning Network:**
We have 50 members this year. Our first meeting was Oct. 19. The theme was “Communication and Collaboration,” and members focused on the integration of the speaking and listening standards in the classroom to foster critical thinking and deeper learning. The next LLN session is December 7.
- **ELA Fellows:**
The focus this year is on academic language and supporting students in reading multiple sources to analyze and evaluate evidence and produce a written response. Fellows have begun working on their Action Plans with their supporting administrator. The next meeting is November 29.

TPEP

- TPEP & Human Resources Implementation Workshop offered by WASA & WSPA; Jan 25th, 9 am - 3 pm at Arlington School District office. More information can be viewed [[HERE](#)].
- TPEP Roundtable Meeting on January 23rd has been **CANCELED**. The next Roundtable meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2017.
- Learning Focused Feedback for Growth workshops are available both at NWESD and in your District. These skills will empower administrators to have effective and efficient feedback conversations for supervision and coaching. Gayle Everly is currently designing 1-3 hour introductions and scheduling 1-4 days of training.

Early Learning

- **WaKIDS:** Fall WaKIDS data is complete and is available to all participating schools. This information will be posted to the State Report card soon but teachers and district administrators can generate reports at their convenience through the online tool, *Teaching Strategies GOLD*. If you need access, or would like to assign access to *GOLD*, contact Karma Hugo at khugo@nwsd.org.

We recommend running the Comparative Report for “GOLD Readiness” by “*site*” (school) and “*class*”, which will show the percentages of children who entered kindergarten “*accomplished*” (ready) and “*emerging*” (not ready) by area of development. Classes with high percentages of students in the “emerging” category warrant a closer look and may benefit from targeted interventions. Visit the OSPI website for information about creating and interpreting WaKIDS and *GOLD* reports <http://www.k12.wa.us/WaKIDS/Materials/default.aspx>.

- **Full-day Kindergarten Guide:** To support implementation of high-quality full-day kindergarten across the state, OSPI partnered with Kristi Dominguez from Bellingham Public Schools and Laurie Sjolund from Sumner School District, to create the *Full-day Kindergarten Guide*. The Guide is a great resource for new principals, for kindergarten team meetings and/or for use as a book study <http://www.k12.wa.us/BulletinsMemos/Memos2016/M034-16Attach1.pdf>.

- **Early Learning Fellows:** Funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to the Washington State Association of Educational Service Districts is providing for the first-ever cohort of Early Learning Fellows across the state. Here in our region, we have ten Early Learning Fellows representing nine school districts and one community preschool program. Our focus is early math, equity, leadership and family engagement. The second meeting of the Early Learning Fellows will be December 14.

- **2016 State of Children & Families Report:** Every fall, Northwest Early Learning regional collation releases an annual report called, *The State of Children & Families*. This report contains demographic and programmatic data to help communities better understand the needs of the children and families who are building their lives in our region. This year’s report can be accessed here: https://www.nwsd.org/early_learning/nwel/report.

Deeper Learning

- NWESD’s Associate Cluster with New Pedagogies for Deep Learning is now 7 school districts and 17 schools. We have had 2 days of leadership training and Days 3 & 4 are Nov 21-22. Teacher Leaders are designing templates for Deeper Learning to help teachers implement deeper learning experiences in classrooms. A second cohort of Concept-Based Curriculum Design began in October.
- **Project-based Design for Deeper Learning** **New Dates! Feb 2 & 22** For more information or to register follow this [LINK](#).
- Please contact Pam Estvold for information on how to get involved!

Office of Student & School Success

- The Northwest Region serves 23 identified schools (Focus, Priority, SIG and RAD) across 12 districts. These schools worked diligently with their Office of Student and School Success (OSSS) Leadership Coaches to submit the first draft of an extensive *School Improvement Plan* on October 30th. This work is guided by a tool called *Indisar* that captures research and evidence researched strategies for school turnaround.
- In mid-October NWESD hosted a Regional training for OSSS school teams. Kathy Budge, author of *Turning High Poverty School into High Performing Schools*, led us through powerful strategies in addressing the issues of poverty in the school setting. If schools/districts are interested in hosting her coming again, please contact Gayle Everly. It is valuable research that can serve all of our schools.
- Gayle Everly, ESD OSSS Lead, works with district teams to assess and research a *District Improvement Plan* in the same tool. Gayle is available to support administration in researching, using data and completing these district plans that are due May 30th with updates and monitoring expected throughout the school year.
- The Regional coaches, both Leadership and Instructional meet monthly for professional learning and sharing resources to serve our identified schools - we are focusing on Learning Centered Conversations for Powerful Coaching, Language Acquisition, Equity: Serving Students Living in Poverty and actionable data.

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