

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 28, 2006

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: L. Thomson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Using Assessment to Enhance Student Learning and Success- AISI Project Update

ORIGINATOR: T. Parker, Executive Director

RESOURCE STAFF: Anne Mulgrew, Louise Osland

INFORMATION

This report will provide detailed information about one of the district's Cycle 3 Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AIS I) projects; Using Assessment to Enhance Student Learning and Success. It includes a general overview of the project, information on professional development and how project progress will be communicated both internally and externally.

Overview of Project

The Using Assessment to Enhance Student Learning and Success project includes 72 schools from all divisions. Professional development for the project will explore the application of sound assessment principles and practices across all grade levels and subject areas. Research has shown that the implementation of assessment for learning practices improves achievement for all students and has the greatest impact on the performance of struggling students. There is also substantial evidence to suggest that the implementation of research-based assessment for learning practices improves students' engagement and motivation to learn.

The goals for the Using Assessment to Enhance Student Learning and Success project include:

- Increased opportunities for students being able to demonstrate
 - what they need to learn;
 - what they know and don't yet know; and
 - what they need to do in order to improve their learning.
- Increased evidence that teachers are improving their teaching practice through the acquisition of new knowledge and skills in assessment.
- Increased parental understanding and involvement in assessment to support student learning.

Professional Development

Professional development will be provided through project sessions, but more importantly, through experiences that involve the direct mentoring of teachers in the context of their own classrooms.

In the first year of the project, professional development will focus on five broad strategies in the area of assessment for learning that have proven to be equally powerful with teachers of all content areas and at all grade levels. These five key strategies are:

1. Sharing learning expectations by clarifying and sharing intentions and criteria;
2. Improving questioning strategies in order to engineer effective classroom discussion;
3. Providing feedback that enables learners to move forward;
4. Activating students as owners of their learning through self-assessment strategies;
5. Activating students as instructional resources for one another through peer-assessment strategies.

Communication and Knowledge Dissemination

Throughout the Using Assessment to Enhance Student Learning and Success project, schools will have numerous opportunities to provide feedback and share successes as well as challenges. Members of the Project Leadership Team (PLT) will communicate with schools on a regular basis, through a monthly newsletter, information posted to the AISI Webpage, and site visits.

Summary

Student engagement, motivation and achievement will be enhanced as a result of effective implementation of assessment practices. What is learned through this project has the potential to change the way we support and enhance the learning of all students.

LT:gj

APPENDIX I –List of the Schools involved in the Using Assessment to Enhance Student Learning and Success AISI Project

Using Assessment to Enhance Student Learning and Success AISI Project Schools:Ward A

Baturyn School
 Dickinsfield School
 Dunluce School
 Kensington School
 Lago Lindo School
 Lorelei School
 Mary Butterworth School
 McArthur School
 Northmount School
 Rosslyn School

Ward B

Balwin School
 M. E. LaZerte School
 McLeod School
 York School

Ward C

Afton School
 Britannia School
 Coronation School
 Crestwood School
 Glenora School
 Grovenor School
 James Gibbons School
 Laurier Heights School
 Parkview School
 Westglen School
 Westminster School
 Woodcroft School

Ward D

Eastglen School
 Spruce Avenue School
 Virginia Park School

Ward E

Aldergrove School
 Belmead School
 Elmwood School
 Hillcrest School
 LaPerle School
 Lymburn School
 Lynnwood School
 Michael A Kostek Elementary School
 Patricia Heights School

Ward F

Allendale School
 Avalon Junior School
 Garneau School
 L Y Cairns School
 McKernan School
 Mount Pleasant School
 Parkallen School
 Windsor Park School

Ward G

Braemar School
 Capilano School
 Clara Tyner School
 Forest Heights School
 Jackson Heights Elementary
 Kenilworth School
 King Edward School
 Mill Creek Ritchie School
 Velma E. Baker School

Ward H

D S MacKenzie School
 Duggan School
 Earl Buxton School
 George H Luck School
 George P. Nicholson School
 Keheewin School
 Richard Secord School
 Rideau Park School
 Riverbend School

Ward I

Dan Knott School
 Edith Rogers School
 Hillview School
 J Percy Page School
 Lee Ridge School
 Malcolm Tweddle School
 Minchau School

Metro Continuing Education