

CLI PARTNERSHIP AND WHAT IT MEANS TO SHERIDAN CSD1, WY

As the curriculum director in Sheridan County, Wyoming, I am often asked how SCSD #1 deals with all things curricular. The answer is Curriculum Leadership Institute (CLI) and hard work! Because the CLI Model is both systematic and systemic, with student learning at its heart, every staff member contributing to student learning is affected. Our partnership with CLI has enabled us to grow teacher leaders, administrative leaders, and create curriculum processes and instructional practices that will enhance student learning for many years to come. This is the most important work we do! The following are excerpts from a 2015 board report detailing some of the improvements in our district since we began the implementation of the CLI Model and our journey from being “all about teaching” to “all about learning.”

Curriculum Policy

In partnership with CLI, we now have a comprehensive policy that directs the development of curriculum and provides parameters for the Curriculum Council and subject area committees.

Curriculum Council

In partnership with CLI, we created the Curriculum Council, which consists of teachers, parents, a school board member, and all district administrators. The CC makes decisions regarding curriculum and assessment, professional development and student learning. The CC directs the work of subject area committees and serves as a sounding board for certified personnel in curriculum matters. The CC serves as an advisory board to the superintendent and Board of Trustees.

Long Range Plan

In partnership with CLI, the Curriculum Council created policy guidelines, a long-range plan for curriculum and assessment development, resource adoption, and professional learning. This approach allows us to be more intentional in our approach to curriculum matters, as opposed to reactionary, while also being guided by school district policy. For instance, if the current State Education Accountability and Assessment bill passes, WDE will be required to review the alignment of each district's curriculum plan and assessment system to the Wyoming State Content Standards. We are ready for this!

Subject Area Committees & Curriculum Development

In partnership with CLI, the CC created subject area committees according to our long-range plan. The committees consisted of all 7th-12th grade teachers in that subject area and a representative from Grades K-6. Subject area committees posted wall charts of their curriculum and worked closely with one another to ensure K-12 sequence of instruction. Committees also conducted a K-12 read through of the curriculum to ensure that each grade level had the right mix of lower- and higher-level learning targets inherent in the Wyoming State Content Standards.

Instruction

In partnership with CLI, teachers developed pacing guides and instructional planning resources to help them implement their new curriculum. They worked with their cohorts to identify areas of professional development and/or resources that were needed to teach each outcome. In some classrooms, teachers are using pretests to identify areas of focus for instruction and learning. Buildings have put interventions in place to assist students who need additional support, and in some cases, to assist students who are ready to move forward.

This is important!

Our partnership with CLI has enabled us to grow teacher leaders, administrative leaders and create curriculum processes and instructional practices that will enhance student learning for many years to come. This is the most important work we do.

Sara McGinnis
Curriculum Director
Sheridan County School District #1
Ranchester, WY