

Annual Report
Penobscot River Educational Partnership
2006-07 School Year

Executive Officers

The Executive Officers have will have met 5 times during the 2006-07 school year. They responded to updates of ongoing PREP initiatives and provided direction in how PREP responded to the TABOR Initiative, school consolidation, grant development and the business service initiative.

Staff Development

This school year we provided the following staff development activities. They all received very positive evaluations.

- Making Math Meaningful - Teachers
- Making Math Meaningful - Ed Tech's
- Differentiation of Instruction
- Marzano Strategies
- 6 + 1 Writing Traits
- Use of Data – Curriculum Coordinator's Activity
- Supporting Teacher Leaders

Members of the Professional Development Committee work closely with Curriculum Coordinators to provide well focused staff development activities.

Grants

We received a \$15,000.00 grant from the State Department of Education to support the efficient delivery of educational services. The focus of our grant was on collaboration in the area of business services. Paul Myer, our project director, has been involved with helping develop a grant to the Maine Bond Bank and the establishment of initial discussions around collaboration.

We have applied for a grant of \$100,000.00 to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to further develop collaboration and planning for consolidation around business services. This grant would focus on areas including accounting functions, food service, health and safety issues and substitute teachers.

We have recently complete two grants supporting literacy development in PREP high schools. We will be updating the Executive Officers of these grants at their April 23rd meeting. One grant is for \$35,000.00 for one year and the other grant is for \$1,000,000 over three years.

We were very fortunate to have an individual do a practicum in grant writing this past semester. Jessie Meeks, a graduate student in English, worked with PREP staff in developing the second and third grants mentioned above.

Guidance Initiative

Prep middle school and high school guidance counselors have had another productive year collaborating with each other under the support of Craig Kesselheim from the Mitchell Institute. A Professional Learning Community has been established with this group. Use of data has been a key focus area of this year.

Special Education Initiative

The hiring of Psychological Service Providers and Speech Therapists has been very successful. School systems involved have been very pleased with the quality of professionals hired and the services provided.

For the 2007-08 school year, four school units will be involved with securing Occupational Therapy services through a PREP request for proposal initiative.

Response to Intervention

During the 2006-07 school year, 15 representatives from six PREP school units have been involved with ongoing planning for implementing the RTI initiative with grades K and 1 in the areas of literacy. We are formalizing a system at this time to implement this initiative systematically in all involved schools. We intend to develop professional learning communities for K and 1 teachers focusing initially on the issue of phonological processing.

Business Services Committee

The Business Services Committee has continued to meet on an ongoing basis. The committee developed several grant proposals and has begun to implement the identified initiatives in the grant received from the State Department of Education.

Curriculum Coordinators

The PREP Curriculum Coordinators meet monthly and have continued their focus on understanding and aligning school unit initiatives to directions provided by the State Department of Education. They focus on continuing their own staff development through book sharings and other types of collaboration.

Teacher Preparation

Representatives from the College of Education and Human Development and PREP Public Schools meet monthly to advance collaboration around pre-service teacher preparation. A key focus of this past year has been discussions around Professional Development Schools.