

Grand Isle Supervisory Union

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Superintendent's Report

October, 2016

ACT 46 UPDATE:

September 20 the Act 46 Study Committee Report Proposal was unanimously approved by the state board and received high praise from both the state board and the Secretary of Education. Feedback to the committee included "The GISU report had 'raised the bar' for other districts. Check out the official report under the "Documents" tab of www.islandschools.org. Also, under the "Calendar" tab, you can find the dates for upcoming informational meetings by town, prior to the November 8th vote.

The Committee will be sending out a summary document in the upcoming weeks.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND PROFESSIONAL LEARNING:

Sept 30th marked the end of our Universal Screening window for language arts and mathematics. During this three week window, there was a massive effort by teachers to assess all students with our reading and math screeners. Universal Screening is an essential component of our MTSS framework. The screeners are measures that allow us to assess which students are in need of something more or different. This encompasses both students in need of intervention and those in need of enrichment. In the next two weeks, teachers will be working in teams to group students according to need based off the data they collected. The official kick off of our first intervention cycle is October 17th, but many of our schools have been doing tremendous work with students already. There will be periodic data checks and conversations within the next few months to ensure intervention is working for the students and the cycle will end shortly before winter vacation.

October 4th kicks off our professional learning cohorts. The administrative team members have worked hard to design and implement this new (to us) professional learning model. We are excited to begin learning together to improve our practice for our students!

One of the interesting things that resulted from the introduction of the professional learning cohorts is that there is an overwhelming interest in learning about the effects of trauma and how to change our practice to be more trauma informed. As you may know, in VT and in Grand Isle County children are increasingly experiencing early childhood trauma due to a variety of factors. Persistent trauma affects these children deeply, often leaving them with so much to cope with that they cannot access learning. I am proud that our faculty and staff are so invested in understanding how they can incorporate new strategies and understanding to

design classroom environments and instruction to address this growing need. Because of this, we are going to focus as a whole SU on learning about the effects of trauma and trauma-informed practices on our SU in-service days in October, January and April.

Work is under way to get Smarter Balanced Assessment scores out to families.

SPECIAL EDUCATION:

The Vermont Agency of Education has reviewed our submission of the 2015 Child Count. The review of information is focused on the triennial review (evaluation completed every three years to determine continued eligibility for special education) and Individualized Education Plan (IEP) annual review dates (annual IEP meeting to review needs, goals and services yearly). The Grand Isle Supervisory Union was notified on September 29, 2016 that we met 100% compliance with triennial review and 99.11% on annual review dates.

Special Educators and Speech and Language Pathologist have a done a nice job meeting regulations requirements and ensuring students are receiving effective and efficient Tier III intervention services.

The FY18 Service Plan is currently being drafted and will be submitted to the Vermont Agency of Education prior to October 15, 2016.

Designating LEA McKinney-Vento Liaisons:

Considerations under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA, replacing No Child Left Behind / NCLB) include new legal requirements for LEAs on the capacity, training, and duties of school district liaisons. It provides important considerations to assist LEAs to ensure that liaisons have sufficient capacity and support to carry out their duties.

ACT 166:

The Director of Student Support Services contact the VT Agency of Education regarding finger printing of Grand Isle Supervisory Union EEE employees who provide direct service to students in a 1:1 setting in our community partnership sites. We currently have 3 community partnership sites. Child Development Division-Department of Children and Families and the Vermont Agency of Education are working together on the interpretation of this regulation. Follow to this will be in the November Superintendent's Report.

High School:

See attached for current enrollments as of September.

FROM THE BUSINESS OFFICE:

The business office will be working on budgets, audits, 1st quarter grant reporting, food service certifications, payroll reporting, and responding to corrective actions from the Agency of Education based on their fiscal audit of last year.

IMPORTANT DATES:

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| October 8 | Early Childhood Resource Fair, Alburgh School, 10:00am – 1:00pm |
| October 19 -21 | Annual Vermont School Boards / VSA Conference |
| October 20 | GISU In-service at Grand Isle School, (No School) |
| October 21 | Local In-service day for all schools, (No School) |