

Teaching And Learning

3-15-21

Testing is going to take place this spring. The Kentucky Department of Education has requested waivers from the United States Department of Education for accountability. USDE's stated purpose for the spring assessment is to try to gauge the effects of the pandemic on our student's learning. There is some flexibility in the testing window and calendar. We are charged with making a "good faith effort" at testing all of our students, both the in person and the virtual student. The bar for "good faith effort" is not very high.

The ACT was given on March 9. Ms. Wooton, and her team are to be commended for a job well done.

We have returned to in person instruction -- where we thrive best, and it has been very refreshing. Both buildings are "doing what they do best". There are concerns for some loss of learning, but that was to be expected. There has been extensive conversation both within the district and with colleagues outside the district about summer school. Each building can report on their current status, but the conversation outside the district has conversation all over the board. One thing that is for certain, remediation in summer school will not be sufficient in some cases. Remediation through the academic year with RTI will be necessary for the foreseeable future.

I have been in conversation with Roger Choate of yourlearningpartners. This company produces the Case 21 learning assessments. They offer a wide variety of tools and assessments to help schools gauge student preparedness for the K-PREP. We have joined a group of districts from the GRREC region, in an effort that we might leverage better pricing in this endeavor. Roger is currently working on a proposal specifically for our district.

I stated this last month and I will reiterate this month. Teacher creativity will be a premium for the remainder of this year and into the 2021-22 school year; and quite possibly will need to carry into 2022-23, but conversation and observation leads me to believe that we will realize success. We have very strong and capable teachers who have been diligent through pandemic, but we all know that they are at their best when they are in class with their students.