



SAU 7 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

10-1-21

ESSER Funds

Following feedback from stakeholders via survey and board public hearings as well as affirmation of the 2018-2023 SAU 7 Strategic Plan by the School Board and Leadership team, we are ready to plan and implement ESSER grant projects for 2021-24. On October 11, grant writing sessions with the leadership team will be held. At this meeting we will discuss:

Successful Programs Initiated this Year:

1. Continuation of after school programs
2. Continuation of professional development for teachers and leaders
3. Continuation of instructional coaching and mentoring programs
4. Updating instructional materials

Current/Future Plans:

1. Grant Specialist at SAU 7 (assist with federal grant writing/processing specialist using ESSER III funding)(approved by boards)
2. COVID related facility improvements such as HVAC updates
3. COVID related construction (addition/remodeling) subject to NHDOE approval
4. Student Instructional Support
5. Review of future instructional material needs

Budget Process

This month, we will initiate the budget process. The school budget involves many different individuals and entities across several levels. At the local/district level, budget discussions and work will involve school administrators, school boards, school employees and community members. Budgeting is the process of using information to allocate finite resources to prioritize organizational needs. In school districts, budgeting requires using information about school staff, students, and facilities to meet student learning needs and goals.

School districts must work within their capacity to produce budgets that support the needs of their students and community. Common problems district leaders face are typically related to budgeting around the following areas: targeting achievement gaps; alignment of resources to

support learning improvement agendas; prioritizing learning-focused leadership; and, developing the human capital of the school or district.

Many education finance researchers agree the following practices should guide resource allocation decisions: +Decentralize spending authority to schools, in keeping with good managerial practice and school-based accountability for student learning; +Calculate school budgets based on individual students and their educational needs; and +Develop strong information systems and use them to support planning, monitoring, and evaluation of resource use.

Teachers will submit requests to principals by the end of October. Principals will draft their initial budget. The SAU and School Administrators will finalize their draft budget proposals in November. The SAU Board will review and approve the SAU 7 budget on November 12 and the SAU 7 Public Hearing will be held on December 10. District budgets will be approved by their respective School Boards in January and District Public Hearings will be held in February.

Leadership

The leadership team continues to meet biweekly to address a variety of school operations and planning issues. Most recently we discussed plans for open house, professional learning communities, and staffing shortages for substitute teachers. This month we are working with School and Central office administrators on budget development.

Fall Back to School Report

While COVID cases have been low in our area in September, we have seen an increase in illness of various kinds in the school environment. This has resulted in student and staff absenteeism at higher than usual levels for this time of year. Consequently, we have stepped up substitute teacher recruitment efforts.

As COVID Cases increase this fall and winter, we will follow the Board approved protocols and recommendations of NH DHHS. If we have substantial transmission, face coverings may be required. Our goal is to ensure student and staff safety while maintaining in person instruction that addresses our student and staff needs. Our COVID - 19 response team will address schools individually Board when making these decisions.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Our part-time Curriculum Coordinator, Jenn Mathieu, has been visiting schools and classrooms, supporting our sixteen new teachers, leading our professional learning community work and presenting at school board meetings. We have received very positive feedback from our staff and Jenn is enjoying the challenge of working with teachers and administrators to improve curriculum and instruction for our students in SAU 7.

Teachers will participate in professional development during the early release on Oct 7 and a full day inservice on Oct. 8. Topics include mandatory training, curriculum development and social emotional learning.

Business Administrator Transition

Cheryl Covill has announced her decision to retire at the end of the school year on June 30, 2022. The SAU Board accepted her retirement notice at their August meeting. The position will be posted in October and the interview process will commence this winter. The SAU 7 administrative and support staff thank Cheryl for her many years of service and appreciate the time to prepare for the transition this year.

Board Updates

The SAU Policy committee will meet on October 12 at 5:30 pm at Stewartstown Community School.

The next meeting of the CRCC will be held in October.

Enjoy the beautiful fall weather!