



Superintendent's Report

May, 2024

Dr. Debra Taylor

The School Year in Perspective

Last month at our Spring SAU 7 Board meeting I highlighted SAU-wide progress toward our Strategic Plan. As your superintendent, I am especially proud of the progress we have made during the past year. I invite you to review the progress summary below and see for yourself all that is going on in our schools as we pursue our mission to ensure that all SAU 7 students find success - in whatever path they choose.

Our school boards have worked together over the past year to support the implementation of our SAU 7 Strategic Plan. I am happy to report the efforts were successful.

We have implemented the career and technical education opportunities with the final approval of the North Point Career and Technical Education Center which began in the fall of 2022. North Point programs include:

1. Auto – including cars, powersports and diesel mechanics located at the Tech Building (with lease with owner of old academy building)
2. Hospitality/Culinary – in partnership with Pittsburg School District and local resorts
3. Education – focusing on multi-level education
4. Health Science – Including LNA as well as a range of health care occupations
5. Information Technology – including a third-year cybersecurity track

PROGRESS TOWARD GOALS - SAU 7 STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal # 1: All students reach their maximum potential.

Teachers are implementing competency based education including quality assessments, instructional strategies and lessons designed to engage our students and help them to grow and achieve at high levels.

Our website now includes a comprehensive overview of our curriculum and instructional program including assessments and access to school, SAU and individual student assessment results for parents. Here is the link: <https://tinyurl.com/2nrryatw> This page provides summary and detailed information concerning our curriculum and instruction accomplishments and plans. I urge you to review the site and accompanying documents.

We have been implementing ALMA, our new student information system, throughout this year. Teacher training was provided in summer and fall for district-wide implementation. This system allows us to use the technology to monitor progress toward graduation, and focus on student interests, building the best possible plan to meet student needs.

Our high schools continue to build partnerships with community colleges and four year colleges through the implementation of dual enrollment, running start, e-start, advanced placement and early college. These opportunities are the bridge to college and career and offer strong foundations for post secondary opportunities. This year our student participation in these opportunities continues to grow. All SAU 7 high school students are offered expanded opportunities to participate in WMCC and NHTI courses virtually, taught by their instructors. We also provide running start courses and students may participate in asynchronous college courses online. Many continue to pursue this option, which expands our electives and career exploration options beyond local course offerings exponentially.

We continue our focus to support all students as they reach their maximum potential through the implementation of the North Point Career and Technical Education Center for our students in SAU # 7. CTE programs include: Computer Technology, Health Sciences, Education, Automotive, and Hospitality/Culinary(in Pittsburg)! Our teachers are doing quite well, our students are thriving and our partnerships with local businesses and colleges are in place. The Regional Advisory Committee met earlier this year and plans another meeting this spring to foster the continued growth of the CTE Center and programs.

Goal # 2: Employ, Retain and Support Highly Effective Staff

Teacher Preservice Training, Recruitment and Retention

We are also addressing our teacher shortage through even more partnerships! In partnership with the program available for paraeducators to complete their bachelor's degrees and gain education endorsements, the National Collaborative for Digital Equity has funded a new NH Registered Educator Apprenticeship Program which is a holistic approach that includes: learning and growth opportunities, working with Robin Scott at WMCC and Brian Walker at PSU in the WMCC/PSU 5+3 Program to provide a three year bachelor's degree for educators and receiving an additional \$11,000 to help offset the costs of their education!

Our aim is to strengthen recruitment and retention of staff. We continue to refine our orientation and mentoring program for new teachers. We will continue to seek feedback from teachers and principals to determine how to support our teachers in the future. More intensive mentoring is sometimes required to support new teachers or teachers who are on an alternate pathway to licensure with the Department of Education. A teacher has three years to complete the DOE requirements. In SAU 7 we currently have five teachers on alternate plans for licensure while our remaining teachers hold a beginning or experienced credential.

We are working to align professional development opportunities to support innovation, provide incentives for participation and utilize grant funds to support professional development costs. This effort has been highly successful. We have increased our offerings during the summer and school year. Initiated a curriculum website with resources teachers can use. We provide regular opportunities for teachers to work together to collaborate. We fund the great majority of our professional development opportunities with grant funds including Title II, Esser II and III and IDEA. We focus on our annual evaluation system and improving classroom practices. In addition to our mentoring program, we also provide regular instructional modeling and coaching feedback for teachers in all of our schools. Our principals provide walkthroughs including brief classroom visits with direct written feedback concerning their observations. Teachers then have the option to reply in writing or have a dialogue about the report.

Goal # 3: Establish Community Relationships and Partnerships that Support Successful Students

This year we held many successful activities in our schools which engage parents such as open house, parent conferences, athletic events, and performing arts and curricular activities. We know there is more work to be done and family engagement is a high priority.

We have had extensive continued outreach with the community and business partners this year through the implementation of the North Point CTE Center and programs. This will lead to stronger school and community partnerships in the future and more opportunities for students to be successful.

Our leadership team is devoted to advancing our school system in innovative ways with student needs and preparation for college and career in the forefront. We are a strong team, working collaboratively to engage and support our students. We appreciate the support of our school boards. At the SAU meeting we will hear reports from all departments which further highlight the progress we are making in curriculum, special services, technology and business services. Thank you for your leadership and support.

*SAU 7 Strategic Plan Extension through 2025 and Goal Update
Approved by SAU 7 School Board November 10, 2022
Report to the SAU 7 Board on April 11, 2024*

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the many parents, volunteers, board members, business owners, and community members who have volunteered their time and expertise on behalf of our students and schools this past year. Parent and community involvement is vital to quality schools and school improvement, and to that end, I know our schools are on the right path.



Important Reminders - Mark your calendars!

June School Year Schedule:

Last day of school for SAU 7 students:

Friday, June 14th (half day)

Professional Development Days for Teachers and Support Staff:

June 17-18 in person and 19 remote.

Student Graduation:

Colebrook HS Graduation: Thursday, June 6th at 6:00 pm.

Pittsburg HS Graduation: Friday June 7 th at 6:00 pm.

Stewartstown Eighth Grade Graduation: Thursday, June 13th at 5:00 pm.

Remember - Together we are better in SAU 7!

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Taylor, PhD.

Superintendent of Schools