



SINI 4 Spotlight

Volume 1 Number 2

January 2011

Happy New Year! I hope you took some time to rest and refresh over the holiday break. Thanks for the helpful feedback you shared after our December meeting. This issue *Spotlights* some of the questions you asked and ideas you shared.

Volume 1, Number 2, January 2011

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Looking Ahead: What’s the primary goal of a ‘restructuring’ plan?

Several of you indicated in your December feedback that you need guidance on moving into the next phase of developing your SINI 4 plan for improvement. We’ll get more specific in one on one or group meetings, but as you complete your assessment of your current practices using the *Steps to Success* indicators, start thinking about the core changes you can make that will help your students meet their highest aspirations. Remember the definition of restructuring in the NH guidance:

The term “restructuring” as used in discussions of school accountability refers to dramatic changes that have a high likelihood of leading to improved student academic achievement.

Think about “dramatic” changes such as ensuring that all staff are working in common to provide learning experiences that serve every student. Consider the “high likelihood” of improved student achievement that can be realized when all staff have the training and support they need to do their best for their students. What a “dramatic” change it can be when

teachers collaborate and learn with and from each other to improve their practice! Let these key phrases percolate as you move through the assessment phase of your SINI 4 process and we'll work together to develop a plan for change that builds on your strengths and fills in any gaps.

Giving and Getting Advice

At the December 17 meeting, SINI 4 schools were asked to tell what they would like to get advice on. When the SINI 5 schools met that afternoon, they were asked to tell what topics they could give advice about. Below is the transcription of those requests for advice and offers of advice from the SINI 5 schools.

We will plan some structured events either online or in person to connect advice givers with advice seekers, but in the meantime, don't hesitate to contact the individuals noted in the list.

NH SINI Meeting 12/17/10

SINI 4 -- We could use advice on . . .

We could use advice on . . .	Contact
Tips for motivating staff	Chamberlain St. School, Rochester Jen Hersom jhersom@rochesterschools.com
How do we make this process into an "actionable" plan and not just to meet requirements?	Maple Street School, Somersworth Caroline Butler, cbutler@sau56.org
How doe we pull all the information together to make a cohesive plan?	Bakersville ES, Manchester Judy Adams 624-6312 jadams@mansd.org
Transforming data/ indicators into a plan	Kingswood Regional MS Rusty Ross 569-3689 rross@govwentworth.k12.nh.us
How do we move from the Steps to Success plan to meaningful implementation that actually makes a difference in our school? How do we make this more than an exercise?	Towle School, Newport mcnib@newport.k12.nh.us
Amid a very tight budget and a limited resources, how can we improve the subgroup while at the same time improving core curriculum for all students?	Litchfield Middle School Ronda Gregg, rgregg@litchfieldsd.org
How extensive/ in depth should the answers/ explanations to questions 2C or 4 be on the indicator forms?	Somersworth Middle School Kevin Mosher kmosher@sau56.org
Reaching consensus with all staff and gain support (we would also like to be able to contact any other middle schools that are currently implementing . . .Thanks!)	Cooperative Middle School Esther Asbell easbell@sau16.org Marcy Dovholuk mdovholuk@sau16.org Chris Mazzone cmazzone@sau16.org
How do we validate this planning process for staff/teachers when Hilltop is closing this year? Hilltop has 7 classrooms – the new school will have 24	Hilltop Elementary, Somersworth Kate Segal ksegal@sau56.org

classrooms	
Focus on 2 goals that the faculty takes ownership of – keeping school morale up	McDonough ES, Manchester Susan Uzdanovich suzdanovich@mansd.org
How do we prioritize the indicators and incorporate them into our plan?	Hallsville ES, Manchester Therese Aquirre taguirre@mansd.org James Davenport jdavenport@mansd.org Patricia Giguere pgiguere@mansd.org
Giving ourselves credit for all we have done, yet understand there is more work to do.	Lamprey River Elementary, Raymond Daniel LeGallo d.legallo@sau33.com 603-895-3117
Managing time for meetings versus instruction, especially for classroom teachers but also for special educators	Deerfield Community School Helene Bickford hbickford@sau53.org
Components of the plan and high yield instructional strategies that others have found to be successful	Disnard Elementary, Claremont Melissa Lewis 543-4260 mlewis@claremont.k12.nh.us

SINI 5 – We could offer advice on . . .

We could offer advice on . . .	Contact
How we moved from focusing on one targeted group to the whole school	Griffin Memorial ES, Litchfield Bo Schlichter , Ronda Gregg bschlichter@litchfieldsd.org Tel: 603-424-5931
We could offer advice on reaching consensus and collaboration and the standards/ competency process and how it fits into the discussion	Newport Middle School Barry Connell bconnell@newport.k12.nh.us Tel: 603-863-2414
How to come to consensus/ communicate. We helped facilitate consensus by dividing the work and allowing the process to be driven from the bottom up, not top down (buy in)	Dover Middle School Christine Boston c.boston@doover.k12.nh.us
Becoming a PLC; Elementary RTI Schedule; Teachscape software	Fairgrounds Elementary School, Nashua Chuck Healey healeyc@nashua.edu Tel: 603-594-4318
Forming professional learning communities (PLC) and scheduling time for them to meet	Hinsdale Elementary School Scott Lyman slyman@hnhdsd.org
Creating surveys; 3 tier reading (part of SINI process); common assessment development; template to format goals/ criteria and progress; refining/ focusing down on essentials	Chester Academy Maggie Holm maggieh@chesteracademy.org
PLCs / use of protocols; Teacher Leadership/ Use of data/ schoolwide Data Team	Winnisquam Regional MS Pam Miller, Principal Shannon Kruger, Asst. Principal Pamela A. Miller pmiller@wrsdsau59.org
Use multiple sources of data to advance your plan; making interventions (Title I) and class schedules work	Henry Wilson 4-8, Farmington SAU 61 Jeffrey Keene jkeene@sau61.com Tel: 603-755-2181
Do indicators early with your Leadership Team. When	Wilson Elementary, Manchester

the prioritized list comes out, share and seek teacher input to get teacher buy in and narrow down your indicators	Stephanie Wheeler, Christine Brennan swheeler@mansd.org ; cbrennan@mansd.org
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How PLCs can help in the process	Rowell Elementary, Franklin Kevin Barbour, Mike Hoyt mhoyt@franklin.k12.nh.us kbarbour@franklin.k12.nh.us
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Technical and Logistics Recommendations for *Steps to Success*

During the December meeting and following, some recommendations were shared about using the online tool. Here are two you might find useful:

Printing worksheets and reports: When you go to “Resources and Reports” on the online tool, and select *Worksheets* or *Reports*, you have several options for the FORMAT of your printout. Many of us would be inclined to select WORD format, thinking we might want to customize the parts of the worksheet. However, the WORD format comes through with embedded tables and formatting that may be difficult to manage. A better option for printing worksheets and reports is to select PDF as the EXPORT option. The report or worksheet comes out neatly and can easily be duplicated for work with a group.

RUN TIME ERROR : At a team meeting, we encountered an error message with the headline “RUN TIME ERROR” when entering info into the online system. I contacted Tech Support at ADI for advice and they could not replicate the error. They suggested that the problem may be related to the user’s system settings. The advice they offered is to be efficient when entering information into STS/ Indistar. The Process Manager can take the notes from discussions of each indicator and enter those conclusions at a sitting, saving frequently, after the meeting has concluded.

Beware Initiative Overload!

I mentioned in the previous issue of *Spotlight* that the developers of Indistar (the generic name of *Steps to Success*) launched a blog for users to share and comment on their experiences using the online tool to plan for change. Here’s a posting that might offer some food for thought as you migrate into the planning phase of your SINI 4 process.

Initiative Overload

Does this sound familiar?

- the District selects a new reading series and contracts for 10 hours of training for each teacher
- the State won a grant to conduct trainings to build ‘transformational leadership’ skills for SINI principals

The request I'd make is that you present your process to the other SINI 4 schools in either an in person meeting or online with my support and guidance.

Call or email Karen (Karen.laba@ed.state.nh.us; 603 969-0988) if you think you're ready to take that next step and we'll schedule a date and time.

Continuing the Conversation

A common request from the Dec. 17 meeting was to find ways to continue the conversation with other SINI 4 schools. Watch for an email Meeting Wizard invitation and indicate your preferences among the options for our next meeting opportunity.

Contact Updates

The contact list on the following page includes a couple of corrections/ updates to the one in the last issue. Use this version to get in touch with those you may have met at the December meeting.

I hope you find this newsletter helpful. Please contact me if you have suggestions for items to include in a future issue or recommendations for improvement. Distribute to your team members and others who might find this information useful. Thanks!

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karen.laba@ed.state.nh.us; (c) 603 969-0988; (h) 603 743-5129

SINI 4 -- 2010-2011 Planning Year Schools -- Revised 12.2010

SAU/ District	School	Principal/Contact Email, Phone
#6 Claremont	Disnard Elementary	Melissa Lewis mlewis@claremont.k12.nh.us 603 543- 4260
# 7 Colebrook	Colebrook Elementary	Mary M. Jolles mjolles@colebrook.k12.nh.us 603-237-4801
# 53 Deerfield	Deerfield Elementary	Paul Yergeau pyergeau@sau53.org 603-463-7422
#49 Governor Wentworth	Kingswood Middle School	Kirkland (Rusty) O. Ross rross@govwentworth.k12.nh.us 603-569-3689
#27 Litchfield	Litchfield Middle school	Thomas Lecklider tlecklider@litchfieldsd.org 603-424-2133
#37 Manchester	Bakersville Elementary	Judith Adams juadams@mansd.org 603-624-6312
#37 Manchester	Hallsville Elementary	James E. Davenport jdavenport@mansd.org 603-624-6332
#37 Manchester	McDonough Elementary	Kenneth V. Dibenedetto kdibenedetto@mansd.org 603-624-6373
#43 Newport	Towle Elementary	Kathryn M. Niboli & Margaret McKinney mcnib@newport.k12.nh.us 603-863-2050
#33 Raymond	Lamprey River Elementary	Daniel LeGallo d.legallo@sau33.com 603-895-3117
#33 Raymond	Raymond High School	Kirk Beitler k.beitler@sau33.com 603-895-6616
#54 Rochester	Chamberlain St. Elementary	Stephen M. Leclair leclair.s@rochesterschools.com 603-332-5258
#56 Somersworth	Hilltop Elementary	Kate Segal ksegal@sau56.org 603-692-2435
#56 Somersworth	Maple Wood Elementary	Caroline F. Butler cbutler@sau56.k12.nh.us 603-692-3331
#56 Somersworth	Somersworth Middle School	Michael Quigley mquigley@sau56.org
#16 Exeter	Cooperative Regional Middle School	Marcy Dovholuk mdovholuk@sau16.org Esther Asbell easbell@sau16.org 603 775-8700

