

1/18/2017 Event, K-12 Alignment of Standards Project

Overview of 1/18 Professional Learning Experience

On Wednesday, January 18th, K-12 Principals, Instructional Coaches, District Administrators, and District Instructional Facilitators participated in a professional learning opportunity related to the K-12 Alignment of Standards Project. In total, 165 TPS Educational Leaders participated during the school day on 1/18.

- **Pre-work:** Educational Leaders engaged with an [online professional learning experience](#) to support development of background knowledge prior to the event on January 18th.
- **Activity #1:** Keynote by [Mr. Larry Ainsworth](#) about why districts prioritize standards. Mr. Ainsworth briefly touched on how district prioritize standards.
- **Activity #2:** Hands-on breakout session where TPS leaders from the Curriculum and Instruction Department simulated a prioritization experience with English Language Arts Standards. Specifically, teams broke into grade-level bands (elementary, middle, high) and prioritized the Informational Text strand of standards using Mr. Ainsworth's protocol.
- **Activity #3:** Assistant Superintendent's Verhaar, Pace, and Traufler shared a [presentation](#) outlining the recent Audit Report Findings and Recommendations + a High-Level 3 Year Plan.

Feedback from about the 1/18 Professional Learning Experience

Participants were sent an online survey to complete after participating in all three activities on 1/18. We had a **response rate of 35%** for completing the online survey, compared to our goal of a 75% response rate.

Activity #1 – 96% of participants gave 4 or 5 stars (out of 5 stars) to identify the keynote presentation by Larry Ainsworth was relevant and helped them understand why TPS is going to prioritize standards.

Select comments:

- Mr. Ainsworth condensed a lot of important information into an hour and a half. The information motivated my interested in prioritizing the standards.
- The presentation was timely and highly relevant to the work that I have begun this year with choosing standards as a focus to set PLC goals.
- Very relevant as an IC to know the process and purpose of the work.
- Now have background information on the why and how.
- I already understand they why, I think it is helpful to know that my peers are hearing the same message at the same time. Thank you.
- Very helpful. Not prioritizing the standards is like the proverbial saying of “putting the cart before the horse”. Thanks Mr. Ainsworth.

Activity #1



■ 4 or 5 stars ■ Less than 4 stars



Activity #2 – 91% of participants gave 4 or 5 stars (out of 5 stars) to identify the breakout session by C&I Department leaders was relevant and helped them understand how TPS is going to prioritize standards.

Select comments:

- I enjoyed being able to be part of the conversation and practice what will be next steps for us as a district.
- [This breakout provided] more indepth practice on understanding grade-level standard, process, collaboration with members of various backgrounds of knowledge.
- Respectful dialogue around standards and what they mean is ALWAYS meaningful and supports all of our understanding of what and how the standards work.
- Collaboration is always essential to moving forward with such an important process.
- The opportunity to dig deeper into the process of prioritizing makes the work more meaningful.
- We're all in and a well thought out purposeful plan is in place.

Activity #2



■ 4 or 5 stars ■ Less than 4 stars

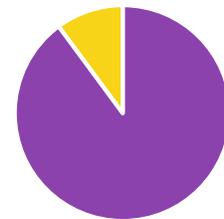


Activity #3 – 80% of participants gave 4 or 5 stars (out of 5 stars) to identify the sharing of the audit report findings & recommendations + 3 year high level plan was relevant and helpful. Participants who gave a lower score identified they want to read the full report, which will be provided to all staff via district communications the week of January 23rd.

Select comments:

- Needed more detail and depth into understanding the questions and results, which I will get when the link is sent out.
- Initial data is informative.
- This is a motivator for looking forward!
- Helpful to recognize that as a school system there are needs of the whole.

Activity #3



■ 4 or 5 stars ■ Less than 4 stars

In terms of the processes used on 1/18, what helped you engage as a learner?

- Multiple modes of learning, not just lecture. Not a new directive but rather a direction to help focus instruction.
- Theory, knowledge and variety of activities. Very clear communication.
- Larry is very engaging. Collaboration in grade band teams was helpful.
- It helped that there was front loading of information prior to the presentation. The ability to engage with the readings and videos made the event more relatable as I had already had access to the material.
- Opportunities for dialogue and discussion in clearly structured ways.
- Time to read and think individually before collaborating as a small group.
- Presentation on the why of prioritization of standards and the how. Opportunity to work with grade-level colleagues.
- I am really glad I participated in the webinar last month, because I was able to jump right into Larry's presentation with some background understanding. I think that was really key and a great move on your guys' part! Larry's presentation was engaging and concise.
- Collaborative discussions. Review of standards.
- Speed with which everything happened and the relevance to current work in our building.
- Working with colleagues to talk through the process and see how this work can be done and implemented for the benefit of Tacoma teachers and students.
- The breakout sessions with the other grade level staff was a good opportunity to start thinking about what the process will look like. Learning through doing always works the best.
- Movement from big group to small group back to big group.
- I appreciated the breakout session and processing the work of prioritizing. The conversations were rich and helped me envision leading this work with staff.
- Background info shared prior to presentation, fairly engaging keynote, time to experience what will the work will look like, time to debrief with coaches/team after.

The Curriculum & Instruction Department believes in providing high quality professional learning experiences for adult learners.

Other comments:

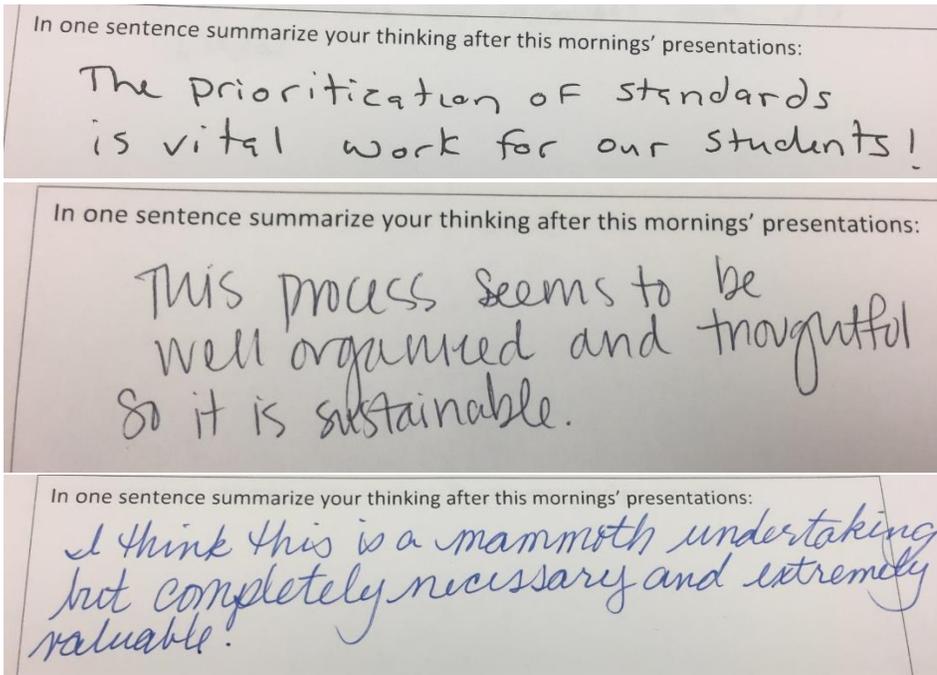
- This was a good learning experience- thanks for bringing Ainsworth to present his research and examples and why this approach is important for TPS student achievement. This is clearly an intentional process/district roll out. I also really appreciated the emphasis on teacher leadership and expertise as they are driving this important work.
- Thank you! It was helpful and well worth the time. 😊
- I appreciate that TPS leadership was open to the results and not vilifying anyone but engaging staff in ways to make things better. It felt very positive.
- Thank you for providing a structure for us to all hear the plan and work together to have a common understanding of the standards.
- It seems this 3 year project stands to elevate TPS to a higher level of delivering quality instruction to all students.
- Good PD ---excited that our district is beginning this process.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Curriculum & Instruction Department

January 23, 2017

Participants were also asked to identify how the learning experience could have been improved. Members of the Curriculum & Instruction Department who planned the event will reflect on this information, and use it to improve the quality of professional learning experiences in the future.



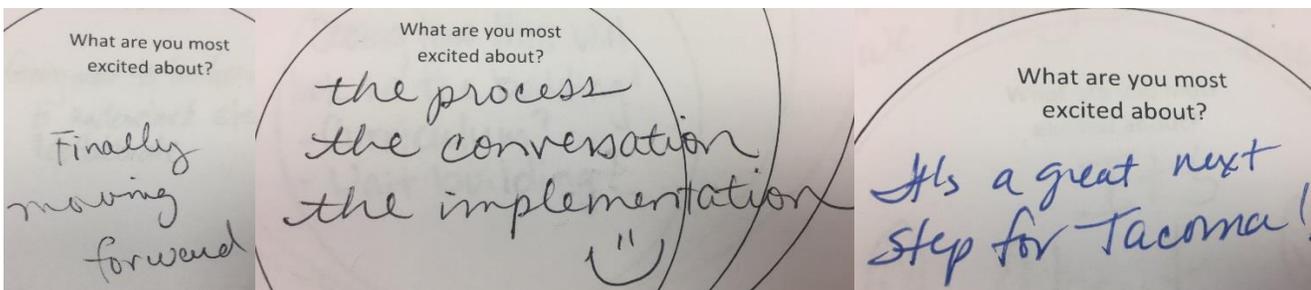
In one sentence, summarize your thinking after this mornings' presentations:

The prioritization of standards is vital work for our students!

This process seems to be well organized and thoughtful so it is sustainable.

I think this is a mammoth undertaking but completely necessary and extremely valuable.

Select comments from "debrief" exit slips after Activity #2 on 1/18. Educational leaders participated in 3 activities total on 1/18.



What are you most excited about?

Finally moving forward

The process. The conversation. The implementation.

It's a great next step for Tacoma!

It's about time!

Select comments from "debrief" exit slips after Activity #2 on 1/18. Educational leaders participated in 3 activities total on 1/18

