

Mediapolis Common and Iowa Core Implementation Plan Summary

Outcome 1: Leadership

A committee has been formed that consists of district and building administrators and staff leaders from both the Iowa Core Leadership Team and the Teacher Quality Committee. Information and input is given and received from the School Improvement Advisory Committee and the Career and Technical Education Advisory committees.

Our Common/Iowa Core Leadership team has been attending the trainings that have been provided by Great Prairie AEA. This has provided us with a common understanding of the components of the core as well as ideas to use with staff and community for information and training.

This Leadership team has developed a vision for the Common/Iowa Core that has been reviewed by the board as well as community committees.

The administration and select staff leaders at each building have been trained in Professional Learning Communities to facilitate the conversations and leadership necessary to implement all aspects of the Common/Iowa Core.

Curriculum changes, including intended, enacted, and assessed, must align with the Common/Iowa Core. Our plans are to review our current teacher evaluation process to also align with the Common/Iowa Core expectations and ensure implementation.

The Leadership team will continue to give presentations to community groups and parents and provide communication regarding the Common/Iowa Core to the Board of Education. This team will also continue to provide the leadership for planning and implementation of the Common/Iowa Core.

Outcome 2: Community

The community has had several opportunities to learn about the Common/Iowa Core through newsletter articles, board packet information, and presentations to the Board, and Mediapolis Lion's Club. The K-12 staff has been involved with the Common/Iowa Core through professional development and piloting the alignment process.

A PowerPoint presentation has been developed that provide the basics of the Common/Iowa Core to share with community groups and to allow the community to give input on the final plan. Core information will be on the district's website along with a link to the Common/Iowa Core website.

Using the internal and external school communities to provide the various needs and level of support needed for students to learn is also a part of our planning process.

Outcome 3: School

This outcome is primarily focused on the development of the Common Core Implementation plan as well as a plan for continual school improvement.

The Iowa Core Leadership Team, consisting of administration and staff leaders, has completed the baseline self-study for all outcomes. The basic components of the Core Implementation plan have been shared with the school board and school improvement advisory committee and input has been received.

Mediapolis vision for the Iowa Core

Each and every K-12 student at Mediapolis will learn the essential concepts and skills sets identified in the Common and Iowa Core Curriculum for life in the 21st century. The Core Curriculum is designed to improve achievement of all students, preparing them for the world of work and lifelong learning.

Guiding principals:

- ☞ Each and every K-12 educator will embed the essential concepts and skill sets in rigorous and relevant instruction informed by ongoing formative assessment.*
- ☞ Each and every educational leader will ensure an aligned system of curriculum, instruction and assessment, focused on the Common and Iowa Core Curriculum essential concepts and skill sets.*

This vision supports and aligns with the Mediapolis District Mission Statement.

The plan was completed and presented to the school board in May of 2010. The due date of the plan to the state was July 1, 2010. Plans for grades 9-12 are required by this date; however, Mediapolis has chosen to write the plan for all grades K-12. The progress for implementation will be reviewed at least four times a year.

Outcome 4: Alignment

Mediapolis Schools are working with GPAEA. All staff are aligned their enacted or taught curriculum with the Common/Iowa Core. Staff in the core areas of literacy, science, math and social studies has focused their efforts, to date, on the core content. All staff has aligned their curriculum with the 21st Century Skills.

Much of the work that is now occurring is to eliminate the overlaps and gaps that are found between the enacted curriculum and the Common/Iowa Core essential concepts and skills. Elementary and middle school teachers in social studies and social science have worked on addressing the intended curriculum. High school language arts and math are also working on these gaps and overlaps. The other curricular areas and grades will be developed as time allows.

The high school level presents unique challenges to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn the essential concepts and skills. This is due to the fact that students have multiple class choices. To address this issue, while still allowing choices, departments will develop a variety of pathways for students to have opportunities to learn the essential concepts and skills.

The teachers will investigate using the MISIC alignment tool during the 2010-11 school year to analyze the gaps and overlaps comparing the enacted curriculum with the intended curriculum. This will be completed within two years and reviewed yearly thereafter or as changes in the curriculum occur.

In the future, teachers will be trained to observe other teachers and participate in dialogue to ensure that the Common/Iowa Core is being enacted with fidelity in the classrooms.

Outcome 5: Professional Development

All professional development for the district is designed to be under the umbrella of the Common/Iowa Core. Our district-wide focus for professional development is Characteristics of Effective Instruction. A three-year plan has been developed that incorporates the other Characteristics of Effective Instruction (see below). This will be reviewed periodically and may be extended to a four or five year plan.

As professional development is designed, it will follow the Iowa Professional Development Model. A variety of student achievement as well as process and implementation data will be collected to guide the professional development efforts.

Outcome 6: Instruction

The focus of outcome 6 is the Characteristics of Effective Instruction and Professional Learning Communities. The Characteristics of Effective Instruction are:

- S**tudent-Centered Classrooms
- T**eaching for Understanding
- A**ssessment for Learning
- R**igor and Relevant Instruction
- T**eaching for Learner Differences

Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) will be developed and used at each building. These PLCs will have multiple purposes and perhaps, various configurations depending upon the purpose. The district professional development as well as the PLCs will focus on the Characteristics of Effective Instruction.