

**Massachusetts Department of Education
Academic Support Technical Assistance Meeting
Thursday, April 27, 2006 ~ 8:00am-2:30pm
Shrewsbury, MA - UMass Hoagland-Pincus Conference Center**

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

8:15-8:45 Registration & Refreshments

8:45-10:00 Welcome & Keynote: *How to Foster Intrinsic Motivation in Struggling Learners*

Worcester Room

All students (even those who have not done well in school) are driven to be successful. Discover the power of internal motivation and how to inspire your students to achieve academically.

Welcome: Rachelle Engler, Director of Student Support, Department of Education
Keynote: Bob Sullo, Author, Administrator, and School Psychologist

10:05-10:50 Promising Practices - Workshop Session I

A. *Life Skills Project: Budgeting and Finance in an Academic Support Program*

Lowell-Dartmouth Room

Description: This workshop will provide an overview of a project in which students are assigned the role of someone's "life" and are asked to determine information regarding their daily life and finances after purchasing a house and car and establishing a monthly budget (after taxes). As a part of the experience, students are presented with an emergency financial situation, and must respond accordingly. Research topics involved in the project include taxes, career, education, unemployment benefits, and budget analysis.

Session Leader: Sheila Ravikumar, mathematics teacher, Methuen High School

B. *See You on Saturday*

Amherst-Boston Room

Description: This workshop will outline and identify the planning and integration of resources needed for the development of a successful multi-program, multi-grade weekend program. It will present the required district and school level support and planning as well as the content for the ELA component used with ELL students.

Session Leader: Anne Marie Carr-Reardon, Director of Student Support Services, Waltham Public Schools

Co-Presenters: Emilie DesJardins, Valerie Fernandez, Rosemary Neville

C. *Music and Poetry to My Ears*

Higgins Room

Description: This session will explore how music can be used in academic support sessions to strengthen students' comprehension in the ELA framework areas in which

many of them struggle. In addition to addressing engaging activities that look at poetry as music, other activities and suggestions will be offered for ways to bring music into the classroom as a means of exploring literature as well as creating an atmosphere that is helpful in engaging whole-brain learning.

Session Leader: Eileen Robinson, Academic Support Liaison, Department of Education

D. Understanding ELL Skill Levels and Needs Using the MEPA

Fuller Room

Description: This workshop will introduce participants to the use of English proficiency results from the Massachusetts English Proficiency Assessment (MEPA). Discussion will include an overview of the four levels of English proficiency development, the structure of the MEPA and MEPA reports, and implications and possible uses of the MEPA for academic support programs.

Session Leader: Nyal Fuentes, Academic Support Liaison, Department of Education

10:55-11:05 Break

11:10-11:55 Promising Practices - Workshop Session II

A. Math Manipulatives on the Web

Dartmouth Lowell Room

Description: This workshop will provide an overview of the National Library of Math Manipulatives website, and discuss its application in New Bedford High School's Academic Support extended day/week tutoring program.

Session Leader: David Morey, Math MCAS Facilitator, New Bedford High School

B. Improvement is Attainable

Amherst-Boston Room

Description: This workshop will discuss strategies at the district and classroom levels in Millis Public Schools that have worked to help 100% of the student body meet the MCAS competency determination.

Session Leader: John Kennedy, Curriculum Director, Millis Public Schools

Co-Presenters: Barbara Harrington, Math teacher, Millis High School and Ted Hoffman, English teacher, Millis High School

C. Activities for English Language Learners

Fuller Room

Description: Your Academic Support program likely includes students who are learning the English language in addition to preparing for the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed on MCAS. In this hands-on workshop we will explore instructional strategies to support English Language Learners in the intermediate and transitioning MEPA performance levels.

Session Leader: Alex Gurn, ASOST Specialist, Department of Education

12:00-12:45 Promising Practices - Workshop Session III

A. *The Theater SPELL Program in Somerville: Teaching ESL through Drama*

Fuller Room

Description: In this workshop, presenters will discuss the experience of Theater SPELL (Summer Program for English Language Learners) in the Somerville Public Schools. Immigrant students engage in the learning of English through writing, producing, and presenting original theater works (short plays, scenes and monologues). Students are also exposed to professional theater presentations in the Boston area. The program started in the summer of 2004 and has proven to be highly motivating to the students who attend.

Session Leaders: Mario Barros and Christine Hauray-Gilbert, Somerville High School

B. *Fund Codes 627/626 and 596/597*

(One Stop Career Centers and Work & Learning Programs)

Higgins Room

Description: This workshop will include discussion and peer sharing on establishing and implementing quality “work and learning” models to support student achievement. As students strive to acquire the academic, technical and employability skills necessary to be successful in a 21st century economy, the following topics will be discussed:

- Designing “work and learning” models
- Recruiting community partners to support student achievement
- Identifying appropriate roles and responsibilities of community partners
- Integrating academic support and work-based learning experiences (internships)
- Providing appropriate levels of student support for successful outcomes

Session Leader: Keith Westrich, Connecting Activities Director, Department of Education

C. *Community Service Learning (CSL) and Academic Support*

Dartmouth-Lowell Room

Description: This presentation will introduce participants to service-learning and its effectiveness as a strategy for improving academic and social outcomes for students. Participants will learn the basics of service-learning in practice, hear examples of successful service-learning projects, and have a chance to brainstorm ways in which service-learning might be used in their program.

Session Leader: Kristen McKinnon, CSL Specialist, Department of Education

D. *Academic Support Data Submission Review*

Amherst-Boston Room

Description: This data training (similar to the regional trainings held this January) will walk Academic Support grant recipients through the two methods of entering Academic Support student data through the DOE's security portal. The training will also address the following frequently asked questions: 1. Which students are eligible? 2. What type of data is collected? 3. How to use and improve data collected? 4. How does the DOE use the data? 5. What are the submission timelines and due dates?

Session Leader: Allison Ward, Student Support Data Specialist, Department of Education

12:45-1:15 Lunch *Worcester Room*

1:15-2:30 Afternoon Sessions

A. Grant Meeting for 632/625 Recipients

(District Allocation Grants – School Year and Summer Programs)

Amherst-Boston Room

This session will allow districts to engage in conversations with each other and Department staff about the strengths and challenges of school year and summer program implementation. Along with this, there will also be discussion regarding use of supplemental funds for districts running FC 625 summer programs.

Session Leaders: Alex Gurn and Peg Helgaard, Department of Education

B. Grant Meeting for FC 592-B-1 Partner Recipients

(Competitive Grant Partnering Program for Students from the Classes of 2003-2007)

Fuller Room

Description: This session is required for all partners receiving FC 592-B-1 grants. It will provide a networking opportunity for districts, community colleges, one-stop career centers, and other partners to engage in conversation with each other and Department staff about the strengths and challenges of the partnerships and to provide progress reports concerning collaborative program development to serve the needs of students who have yet to meet the competency determination. Participants will also receive a basic introduction to “One-Stops.”

Session Leaders: Nyal Fuentes, Eileen Robinson, and Keith Westrich, Dept. of Education