

Supervisors of Instructional Support Services Report

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Curriculum Development

A Cosmetology DACUM workshop is being planned for Monday, April 26th at the Hilton Garden Inn. A group of local hair stylists, salon owners and managers will provide input on what we should be teaching our Cosmetology students. Worker tasks, behaviors and future trends for the industry will be discussed. Our Cosmetology instructor will analyze the DACUM Research Chart to identify topics that should be included in our curriculum.

NOCTI Testing

PDE requires that all program concentrators (those students completing at least half of their program) must take the end-of-program NOCTI assessment. The NOCTI testing window is April 7-16th. A written component involves approximately 150 multiple choice test questions taken on-line. The performance component involves completion of several program-related jobs. Industry proctors are scheduled to complete performance test evaluations.

In order to prepare for NOCTI testing, we conducted an informational session March 24th for instructors on how to prepare students for testing. A PowerPoint presentation for students was shown in the cafeteria during break times- the topic was "Tips for Taking Multiple Choice Tests". Talking points on the value of doing well on the NOCTI were shared with instructors as a follow-up activity. Finally, Joe Tarasovitch and Patty Palo conducted NOCTI rallies to energize the students and reinforce the importance of doing well.

Special Education

All students with special needs were offered accommodations based off of their Individualized Education Plans or their section 504 Service agreements as they took their written NOCTI assessment. Our instructional aides are to be commended for all of their efforts in making sure those students received the extra support in testing that they needed.

As we prepare for newly admitted students with disabilities, we are starting to review IEPs and Evaluation Reports. We are also meeting with school district special education case managers to plan for a smooth transition next fall. In some cases, we are inviting those students back for another visit to the programs they have selected. Our intention is to ensure that all students are placed in the most appropriate career and technical program.

Literacy

On Tuesday, April 6, 2010, we held our second annual PSSA Tip Off event and it was a success. During this event our reading and math coaches along with Jane Boyd presented a quick review of what our juniors might see on the PSSA tests. The coaches completed each session with a Jeopardy type question and answer review.

At this time, we are benchmark testing over one hundred of our current sophomore students who scored border line proficient or basic in their eighth grade math or reading PSSA exams. This information will help us plan for next years remediation services for them as juniors.