



**Central Carolina
Regional Educational Service Alliance**
Serving School Districts in the Heart of North Carolina

To: CCRESA Board of Directors
From: Dr. Ed Croom
Date: December 10, 2021
Re: Executive Director Update

CCRESA Council Meetings

The following councils have met since our last meeting. I have listed the major topics discussed so that you will have an understanding of their work.

EC Council

- The EC Council spent a good deal of time discussing their concerns with the low headcounts and how it will negatively impact funding in the future. The state is changing the rules on who and who does not count in the headcount.
- They also discussed strategies on how to deal with administrators wanting every kid who is having trouble to be tested or evaluated for potential EC services.
- Vacancies are very concerning – EC directors are worried this will increase exposure for failure to provide services.
- Some of the employees filling out the paperwork in the schools for EC referrals are not knowledgeable enough to be doing the job. They lack the confidence to go against the team to say “this is not an ec referral” and this issue seems to be compounding.
- The council expressed interest in comparing notes on speech therapists among the RESA counties. They were concerned with the amount of discrepancies in charges and actions being taken by them.

- Christy Grant agreed to serve as the council lead.

Facility Council

- Facility Directors had a lot of discussion around the changes in CDL requirements for bus drivers. Kevin Harrison from DPI will join the transportation directors on Dec 16 for a special council meeting on transportation.
- Directors had discussion on the cooperative bidding process for projects. This topic will be discussed again on the 16th as well.

Equity Council

District Highlight: Durham County

Durham has started their Equity 401 project. This is the third year of the project. The project is trying to help employees to see themselves as an agent of change of equity. They are emphasizing the use of data to help identify gaps in finance, teaching, counseling, HR etc... The project encourages empathy for marginalized populations. They encourage staff to continue to have professional development around equity. They have trained about 500 school based staff.

The modules are asynchronous with videos and a participation guide to help the employees navigate the modules. It is mandatory for Principals to complete the module.

Public Information Officer

- Branding/Rebranding - It seems several districts are beginning to discuss the topic or Rebranding to try to separate themselves from the COVID environment. Two companies currently being used are Apathy and Rhodes.



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- The group will be sharing emergency response notifications to parents which are used during school lockdown and threats. These will be canned messages understanding that it is hard to beat students to “the punch” when situations occur. Hopefully, this will create an environment allowing the districts to be more responsive to parents in these situations.
- The PIO’s have expressed concern over the number of Public Records Requests coming to the districts. One PIO in a one-person department currently has 31 standing requests.

Curriculum Council

- The curriculum council changed their meeting from face-to-face to virtual since they were together for the state meeting the week prior. The majority of their conversation centered around the increase in the number of EC referrals and the level of services required.
- Principals need training on behavior related to a disability. The problem is elevated due to large teacher vacancies and lack of trained adults working with these students.
- The group expressed an issue with the lack of clarity on the requirements for teaching the Personal Finance class. This will be a graduation requirement for seniors graduating 2023. This takes the place of the 4th History requirement for graduation.
- CCRG - This has been included in the state budget. Implementation date is now the Fall of 2022.
- The group was interested in arranging some training for principals and school leaders around the Science of Reading. Specifically, how to give support to a teacher who is struggling in this area. I will be working with Melany Paden to try to find ways to offer this support.



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Technology Council

- Some districts are having difficulty with the ECF (Emergency Connectivity Funds) initiative. Materials which have been ordered, especially laptops, are extremely delayed.
- Senate Bill 105 has passed - 16 million dollars to help fund the monitoring of activity across tech devices. This is to provide network security as well as personal interventions (suicide, etc).

CCP3

This is a very busy time as we prepare for our second cohort of Principal Fellows. Over 60 teachers from the CCRESA districts have applied for the program's second cohort. We will be interviewing 23 candidates over the next couple of weeks to fill 17 slots for the Fall start. We will also begin preparing for the first year of coaching for the 1st cohort. Please make sure you are signing off on these candidates as there is an obligation to the districts.

CCRESA PD

We have continued to offer monthly virtual PD sessions facilitated by BetterLesson. We have limited these offerings to two sessions per topic and have had about 60% attendance. The January session "Fundamentals of Culturally Responsive Teaching: Moving from Awareness to Action" has a large waiting list and we will open up a 3rd session to accommodate the number of interested participants. Currently we have 5 sessions per topic for the February PD session "De-escalation Tactics and Mindsets: Making Classroom Management Manageable". We will be meeting with BetterLesson after the Holiday break to schedule Spring PD sessions in March, April, and May. Please let your C&I representatives let us know if there are any pressing topics they would like for us to cover.