

A Note From the Epping Superintendent

May 2017



Renovating Epping's (Competency) House

A district goal for November 2017 is to have one Student Achievement Report (formerly known as a Report Card) K-12 that is similar in format and accurately measures student achievement.

This review process, which officially started in December of 2016, is a bit like completing a house renovation; there has been more work than expected and some unanticipated issues uncovered in the process.

Epping has its' own Competency Implementation Team (CIT) made up of twenty-three teachers from the elementary, middle, and high school as well as district administrators. To date, this group of leaders have done research, visited schools and are working to have the competency renovations well under way for the Fall of 2017.

Competency-based education is not new to Epping. It has been in place since 2011. The current renovation work is to ensure that all aspects of competency based instruction and assessment is based upon current research/ best practices and alignment with district policies and practices.

Here is what has been accomplished thus far:

- There is an engaged group of teacher leaders becoming experts in competency curriculum, instruction and assessment.
- A draft of a K-12 grading system has been developed by the Competency Implementation Team. This grading system is based upon a four point scale. This scale was chosen as it aligns nicely with typical rubrics, Smarter Balanced, NAEP, STAR and PACE. There are additional decisions that need to be made prior to the full implementation of this system.
- We have a large group of teachers involved in the move from 21st Century Skills (EMS and EHS) and Five Cares (EES) to the four Work Study Practices (WSP) . These

teachers have a deep understanding of the Work Study Practices and will be involved in training the district staff at the end of June and then in August.

As with any renovation, there is still much work to do:

- Currently, a team of professional educators are creating an Epping Competency Handbook that will institutionalize the competency work and provide a resource for staff now and in the future.
- As we align competency theories and practices, we will also need to review policies and handbooks. Once reviewed, policy changes will be brought to the Policy committee of the Epping School Board and then to the entire School Board. The policy work will continue into the 17-18 school year.
- All student grades will be housed in a program called Power School. This program is not new to Epping but is new to the elementary school. In addition, the district will be moving from Powerschool 9 to Powerschool 11.
- A communication plan is being developed. The Competency Implementation Team is well aware that community buy-in is an important aspect of this work.

This renovation has been and will continue to be arduous work! I am fortunate to work with dedicated professional educators who are committed to ensuring that the Epping students are well prepared not only for the Epping world, but for college, a career choice and life in the 21st Century.