



Michigan Educational Research Association, Inc
Fall CONFERENCE
Monday and Tuesday, November 24 & 25, 2008
Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn Lodge
One Covered Bridge Lane
Frankenmuth, Michigan 48734

THEME: CONNECTING ASSESSMENT TO INSTRUCTION

Over the last few years, MERA has sponsored many sessions on gathering, organizing, analyzing, reporting and managing data. However, smooches and quantoids alike have faced the same challenge; how to translate this data into the service of improving the instruction and learning of students. Thus, the goal of this year's MERA conference is to stimulate thinking and provide examples of how folks in Michigan are making the connection between assessment and instruction. We hope that you will benefit from this undertaking and use the evaluation form to help guide us in future conferences that will be helpful as you and your colleagues undertake these same efforts.

Monday, November 24, 2008

8 to 9 am: Registration and Continental Breakfast

9 to 12 (with a break)

English/Language Arts and Mathematics: Laura Schiller, Dana Gosen and Ernie Bauer from Oakland Schools will focus on examining student performance on assessments to help guide instruction. They will look at specific activities, analyses & protocols for writing and math to help teachers see what the data are saying about student performance and how to use that information.

12 to 1: Lunch & MERA Business meeting

1:15 to 2:30:

Adolescent Literacy: Elaine Weber of Macomb ISD will explore the literacy assessments and instruction offered on the website <http://missionliteracy.com>. The goal of this website is to get all adolescents literate and learning by providing educators, parents, and students with a variety of literacy assessments, instruction, and activities. You will have hands-on experience with some of the assessments and activities in reading comprehension, writing development, close and critical reading and synthesis.

2:30 to 2:45: Break

2:45 to 4:00:

PD Math/Science Partnerships: Our presenters Frederica Frost and Carolyn Siebers from Wayne RESA, and Roger Verhey and Adele Sobania from U of M Dearborn will provide a detailed look at this professional development project. PM3 is one of two projects selected by USOE from more than 500 Mathematics-Science grant programs as an example of "PD that works." This presentation will include a description of the major components of the program and an itinerary through the evolution of the final research design.

Tuesday, November 25, 2008

7:30 to 8:30: Continental Breakfast and Registration

8:30 to 9:30:

Linking Assessment to Instruction in Science: Teachers have to constantly assess what students are learning so they know how to adapt their teaching so that students successfully move along the learning progression. The assessments have to provide feedback not only to teachers, but also to students in order to enlist them in their own learning. What kinds of assessments are good for this? How often should this be done? How can the assessment tasks be analyzed to provide appropriate feedback to both teachers and students? What does the feedback tell teachers about the next steps to take in teaching, about remediation and differentiated instruction? And how much knowledge do we currently have about learning progressions in K-12 science? All this and more will be addressed by Theron Blakeslee from Ingham ISD

9:30 to 10:30:

Linking Assessment to Instruction in Social Studies: Avner Segall from MSU will discuss standardized testing and the social studies curriculum and explore standardized testing as a curriculum in social studies education. Questions addressed with include: What impact does standardized testing have on social studies teachers and their ability to teach meaningful social studies? What forms of social studies education does testing make both possible and impossible? How might we move to a more productive model of testing; one that both measures and fosters the dispositions we wish to promote in social studies education?

10:30 to 10:45 Break

10:45 to 11:45:

Grading: Kristine and Jim Gullen from Oakland Schools suggest that grading is one of the major communication links between instruction and assessment. But how do we really use it in our schools? Is grading like the Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance? Is it freedom? Is it physics? Or is grading simply a mode of transportation? Join us on this spiritual adventure.

12 to 1: Lunch

1 to 2:

What is New in Data Collection at CEPI?: The new Michigan Student Data System will replace the state's current data collection system. Trina Anderson from CEPI will provide an overview of the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS), the new application districts will use for state and federal student data reporting. Trina will focus on what people can expect in the first deployment of MSDS as well what is on the horizon for Phase 2.

2 to 3:

The role of MME and MEAP in instructional improvement: James Griffiths from OEAA will provide an update and point to the continuing efforts of OEAA to address instructional improvement.

3 to 3:15: Break

3:15 to 4:30

The new Education YES! Report Card: Paul Bielawski will discuss the current climate for accountability under NCLB, and will address updates for the Education YES school accreditation system and graduation rates for the class of 2008.