



2010-2011 Annual Report

GRO is a dynamic and successful partnership between two Minnesota intermediate school districts. Intermediate districts partner with K-12 school districts to meet more effectively the unique learning needs of every student. In order to achieve this mission, GRO helps districts obtain resources, share effective practice, and stay on the cutting edge of educational research.

Applying Research to Practice – a resource for best practice applications of research based teaching and learning, including 1) Differentiated Instruction 2) Evidence Based Education and 3) Secondary School Redesign.

Grant Seeking Assistance – a resource for GRO member districts and their staffs to write proposals and research funding prospects for projects they seek to fund.

Professional Learning Opportunities – a resource for professional development offered by 287/916 such as training events, seminars and workshops, on-line learning, and idea sharing in repositories for curricula and what other districts are doing.

Applying Research to Practice

Differentiated Instruction for All (DIAL) Project

- Exemplary programs and resources gathered from other schools and institutions hot-linked to the website were updated and expanded.
- Differentiated strategies focusing on reading/language arts/English, math, science, and social studies for elementary, junior high/middle school and high school were expanded.
- The DIAL E-Learning Community courses were included in the Hamline University catalog. The two foundation courses were offered through Hamline.
- A Differentiated Instruction Online Resource document was prepared for distribution to participants at the Differentiated Instruction Workshop sponsored by the Minnesota ASCD.

Evidence Based Education Research Project

- Evidence based education researched literacy curriculum, assessment, and instructional resources were expanded on the website.
- Evidence based education researched science, math and social studies curriculum, assessment, and instructional resources were expanded on the website.

- GRO resources were shared with Pat King, Minnesota Department of Education, for use in providing assistance to school districts.
- Lin Kuzmich facilitated a workshop entitled Redefining Literacy for Career and College Readiness: Leading the Change on May 3, 2011.
- Jon Voss and a team of educators will facilitate a workshop entitled Developing an Online Program for Your District: Claiming Your Place in the Digital Future on June 16, 2011.
- Exploratory discussions were held with Jim Pellegrino to facilitate a workshop entitled Closing the Math Achievement Gap Between High School Graduates and College Freshman. This workshop will be facilitated in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota State College and University system.
- A workshop entitled Building School Cultures of Integrity was planned in collaboration with the Institute of Global Ethics. Due to insufficient registration it was cancelled.

Secondary School Redesign Project

- Resources from the High School Success Emporium III and the Middle School Success Emporium I were added to the website.
- Janice Drieis and Larry Rehage facilitated a workshop entitled Recasting the Senior Year of High School: Model Programs that Foster Rigor, Relevance, and Engagement on January 12, 2011.
- The Secondary Academic Showcase: Programs Producing Results was sponsored in collaboration with the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP) and the Minnesota Middle School Association (MMSA) on April 14, 2011. Facilitating teams included:
 - Preparing Each Learner for Success: The Redesign Journey of the Secondary Schools of Eastern Carver County; *Eastern Carver County Secondary Schools*
 - Tackling the Third Rail in Grading; *Minnetonka High School*
 - How One School Created History by Increasing Math MCA Test Results by 15% in One Year's Time; *Hidden Oaks Middle School, Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools*
 - Professional Development that Empowers Teachers; *Wayzata West Middle School*
 - Rigorous Career & Technical Education Programs to Prepare Students for the 21st Century Workforce; *Anoka-Hennepin High Schools*
- Resources from the Secondary Academic Showcase: Programs Producing Results were added to the website.
- Expanded secondary school redesign resources were added to the website.

Grant Seeking Assistance

- The Grants section of the website was updated to link directly to the grant funding organization web pages. This ensures that the information will be kept up to date for website visitors.

Grants

- MSTP
The Math and Science Teacher Partnership (Region 11) has provided professional development for elementary and secondary teachers in metro districts. The focus this year has been on Grades 6-8: Algebra Connected to Number (12 districts, 120 teachers), and Nature of Science and Engineering, grades 3-6 (20 districts, 233 teachers).
Funding period: July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011
Amount received: \$610,043
- ACE V (Academics in Career Education)
Improving Academic Achievement for EBD Students through Career and Technology Training Programs - FY10 Computer Applications (MS Office)
Funding period: January, 2010 –January, 2011. In February, 2011, additional funds of \$4600 were awarded to support dissemination of the project's outcomes and curriculum materials.
- Alternatives to Suspension
Grant dollars have been used to create a comprehensive program of support for reducing suspensions based on the Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS) model.
Funding period: July, 2010 – June 30, 2011
Amount received: \$20,000.00.

Professional Learning Opportunities

- High School Success Emporium III was held for 28 participants.
- Middle School Success Emporium I was held for 50 participants.
- Recasting the Senior Year of High School: Model Programs that Foster Rigor, Relevance, and Engagement was held for 53 participants.
- Secondary Academic Showcase: Programs Producing Results was held for 65 participants.
- Building School Cultures of Integrity was offered but did not attain a sufficient amount of registrations to offer.
- A workshop entitled Redefining Literacy for Career and College Readiness: Leading the Change was held on May 3, 2011 with 60 participants registered.
- A workshop entitled Developing an Online Program for Your District: Claiming Your Place in the Digital Future is scheduled for June 16, 2011. Registration is currently open.
- SORLA – 29 professional development courses are offered at the 287 District Service Center in partnership with the South of the River Learning Academy, June 27-29, 2011. This is the first year of this collaboration to deliver summer staff development based on the SORLA/Lakeville model.
- The Friday Forum network continued with bi-monthly meetings. Current membership: 28 paid members.

Grants and Research Office Communications

- Issues of the GRO-o-gram e-newsletter were electronically distributed to over 1800 people.
- *Your Opinion Counts!* As part of the GRO-o-gram continues to provide an opportunity for readers to share their ideas about significant educational issues
- Curriculum review process resources and resources for evaluating curricular areas have been expanded on the website.
- Professional Learning Community resources have been expanded on the website.
- A Curriculum Repository continues to be part of the website. A process for soliciting exemplary curriculum, assessment, and instructional procedures, practices, programs, policies and projects for addition to the website has been shared with district leadership.
- Quick Links to Professional Development is included on the website. Within the quick links are the Teaching and Learning Leadership ShareSite, Professional Learning, and Gifted Education Friday Forum.
 - The Teaching and Learning Leadership ShareSite includes:
 - Curriculum Repository
 - Curriculum Trends
 - College Level Examination Program
 - Curriculum Review Process Resources
 - Resources for Evaluating Curricular Areas
 - The Professional Learning section includes:
 - PLC Resources
 - Workshops
 - E-Learning Community
 - Region 11 Math and Science Teacher Center
 - Gifted Education Friday Forum
- Materials associated with GRO initiatives are frequently distributed at professional meetings and to intermediate district advisory groups.

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