



2011-2012 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 are hot-linked to the website.
- Differentiated strategies focusing on reading/language arts/English, math, science, and social studies for elementary, junior high/middle school and high school are provided.
- The DIAL E-Learning Community courses were included in the Hamline University catalog. The two foundation courses are offered through Hamline on a semi-annual basis.

Evidence Based Education Research Project

- Evidence based education researched literacy curriculum, assessment, and instructional resources are provided on the website.
- Evidence based education researched science, math and social studies curriculum, assessment, and instructional resources are provided on the website.
- The School of One concept was examined.
- Jon Voss and a team of educators facilitated a workshop entitled Developing an Online Program for Your District: Claiming Your Place in the Digital Future for three different groups of educators.

- Provided a follow-up process to the Developing an Online Program for Your District: Claiming Your Place in the Digital Future workshop.
- Jim Pellegrino facilitated a workshop entitled Closing the Math Achievement Gap Between High School Graduates and College Freshman in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Education. .
- Jon Voss and Scott Schwister facilitated the four part Online Learning Leadership Network 2011-2012.
- Les Perry, NWEA Professional Development Consultant, facilitated Topping Out the Test: *Effectively Measuring Advanced Learners with NWEA MAPS* for two different groups of educators.
- Elaine McEwan-Adkins and Allyson Burnett were scheduled to facilitate two literacy workshops: Using the New English Language Arts Standards to Build Content Rigor, Grades 6–12, and Teach Them All to Read: How to Design and Implement a K-5 Literacy Program that Addresses New Literacy Plan Requirements for Districts (Elaine only). Registration was low due to spring scheduling and calendar issues; both have been re-scheduled for November, 2012.

Secondary School Redesign Project

- Resources from the Secondary Academic Showcase, 2011 were added to the website.
- Examined approaches to enhance academic rigor.
- Janice Dreis and Larry Rehage facilitated a workshop entitled Recasting the Senior Year of High School: Model Programs that Foster Rigor, Relevance, and Engagement. .
- The Secondary Academic Showcase 2012: Programs Producing Results was sponsored in collaboration with the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP) and the Minnesota Middle School Association (MMSA). Facilitating teams included:
 - **Open Source It! How Anoka-Hennepin Wrote Their Own Probability and Statistics Math Textbook and Saved Over \$100,000** *Anoka-Hennepin Public Schools*
 - **Accelerate Academic and Socio-Emotional Growth by Leveraging Relationships** *St. Louis Park High School's i3 grant to support 9th grade student transition*
 - **Preparing Each Learner for Success** *The Redesign Journey of the Secondary Schools of Eastern Carver County*
- Secondary school redesign resources are provided on 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: Mathematical Reasoning (22 districts, 240 teachers), Life Science, Grades 7-12 (22 districts, 119 teachers) and Nature of Science and Engineering, Grades 3-6 (6 districts, 113 teachers).
Funding period: July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012
Amount received: \$870,000

Professional Learning Opportunities

- Closing the Math Achievement Gap between High School Graduates and College Freshmen was facilitated for 54 participants.
- Topping Out the Test: *Effectively Measuring Advanced Learners with NWEA MAPS* was facilitated twice for a total of 120 participants.
- Recasting the Senior Year of High School: Model Programs that Foster Rigor, Relevance, and Engagement was held for 52 participants.
- Secondary Academic Showcase 2012: Programs Producing Results was held for 34 participants.
- Developing an Online Program for Your District: Claiming Your Place in the Digital Future was facilitated three times for a total of 162 participants
- The Online Learning Leadership Network 2011-2012 served 36 participants through four sessions.
- Using the New English Language Arts Standards to Build Content Rigor, Grades 6–12 was cancelled and rescheduled due to not meeting the minimum participant requirement of 65 participants; 48 people registered.
- Teach Them All to Read: How to Design and Implement a K-5 Literacy Program That Addresses New Literacy Plan Requirements for Districts was cancelled and rescheduled due to not meeting the minimum participant requirement of 40 participants; 23 people registered.
- SORLA – 30 professional development courses are offered at the 287 District Service Center in partnership with the South of the River Learning Academy, June 25-27, 2012. This is the second 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: 23 paid members.

Grants and Research Office Communications

- Three issues of the GRO-o-gram e-newsletter were electronically distributed to over 1200 people. The distribution list is compiled from member district administrators, GRO workshop participants, and those requesting to be included on all updates.
- *Your Opinion Counts!* As part of the GRO-o-gram, this online survey feature 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 are provided on the website.
- Professional Learning Community resources are provided 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 from district leadership is in place.
- Materials associated with GRO initiatives are frequently distributed at professional meetings and to intermediate district advisory groups.

Compiled by:

Duane Udstuen, Applying Research to Practice Consultant

Barbara Wojcik, GRO Administrative Assistant

Jane Holmberg, Intermediate District 287 Executive Director of Teaching and Learning

Jessica Wiley, Northeast Metro 916 Director of Educational Services