



News Re-L.E.A.S.E. Fall 2009

LaSalle County Local Interagency Council/Resource Network

The LaSalle County Local Interagency Council and the Resource network has agreed to combine their meetings and will meet quarterly. The meetings begin at 9:00 and last until 11:00. An update from Child and Family Services is given as well as updates from other community resources. The Local Interagency Council is hoping to have guest speakers on various topics at the upcoming meetings. Future meeting dates:

November 12th, 2009- LEASE office
February 11th, 2010-IVCIL Office 9:00-11:00
May 13th, 2010- TBA, 9:00-11:00
August 13th, 2010-TBA, 9:00-11:00

For additional information, contact Moriah Mott at the L.E.A.S.E. office.

Preschool Update

Early Childhood Outcome Data for Students with IEPs (3-5 years old)

- Beginning August 1, 2009, all Early Childhood Special Education Outcomes data will be required to be submitted via SIS.
- Beginning with School Year 2010 (2009-2010), SIS will prohibit Early Childhood students who have had IEPs from being promoted to Kindergarten if Early Childhood Outcomes exit ratings are not provided.
- Beginning with School Year 2012 (2011-2012), SIS will prohibit Early Childhood students who have had IEPs from being promoted to Kindergarten if Early Childhood Outcomes entry and exit ratings are not provided.
- For children who are exited from Early Childhood Special Education services with less than 6 months of service, the districts may use the entry ratings as the child's exit rating.
- There is a new one page Outcome Summary form that can be used upon entry and exit. The separate Outcome Summary forms for entry and exit are also available for use. ISBE has all Outcome Forms available on its website as well as a Decision Tree for summary rating discussions, and a summary form with instructions.

For additional information, visit www.ISBE.net/earlychildhood



Infinitec Information 2009-2010

What is Infinitec? It is a coalition of schools, special education cooperatives and agencies that work together to provide Assistive Technology supports and services. L.E.A.S.E. is a paid member of Infinitec Southwest and thus all the schools in the L.E.A.S.E. cooperative can access the Infinitec services.

To check out information on Infinitec - go to: www.myinfinitec.org. If you have not registered before, the home page will walk you through the registration process. What are some of the services available?

1. Assistive Technology/Augmentative Communication Consultations
2. Inservice Opportunities
3. Videos
4. Rental and State wide-Lending library
5. Group Buys
6. InfiniTEXT
7. Scanning of textbooks and other literature
8. Hardware/Software sales
9. Assistive Technology Exchange Network
10. Durable Medical Equipment library
11. Resources on a variety of topics including autism, Response to Intervention, reading and more

Infinitec is also continuing the InfiniTEXT program which provides digital text for students. They have also started a fee for service scanning program. If you have interest in these two programs, please check out the website or contact Barbara Harte at L.E.A.S.E.

This year's group buys include Boardmaker, The Fusion (word processor), Kurzweil and Intellitools. Please check out the website for order forms and more information. These group-buys run until December 15, 2009 so don't miss out.

Infinitec will be hosting two Series of trainings this year that are provided by a grant from ISBE. One will be a series of 5 days of training on Augmentative and Alternative Communication. The other will be a 4 days series on writing. These free trainings will be at the UCP Infinitec Southwest Offices in Tinley Park. For more information and registration forms, please check out the website.

Infinitec is also providing several workshops on a variety of topics including using Promethean Boards in the Classroom, Working with Adobe, Response to Intervention in the Middle/High School Setting, Focus on Social and Strategic Competence (while using an AAC device) and Technology Supports for the Math Curriculum. These workshops are at the UCP Infinitec Southwest Offices in Tinley Park and are at a cost of \$35.

Infinitec provides resources for all learners. Please check out the website, www.myinfinitec.org and register today.



What is SIM??

The Strategic Instruction Model is recommended for use by high schools trying to meet the new requirements of Response to Intervention. Seneca High School began this quest in August by sending three content area teachers to training accompanied by their LEASE coordinator, who will then serve as an external support person. These Seneca High School educators will participate in continuous training and implementation of SIM Strategies throughout the year. A general overview of SIM is provided below.

SIM (Strategic Instruction Model) is a comprehensive approach to adolescent literacy. It addresses the need of students to be able to read and understand large volumes of complex materials as well as their need to be able to effectively express themselves in writing.

SIM adheres to four philosophical principles:

- 1) Most low-achieving adolescents can learn to function independently in the general education setting.
- 2) The role of the support-class teacher is to teach low-achieving adolescents strategies that will enable them to be independent learners and performers.
- 3) The role of the content teacher is to promote strategic behavior and to deliver subject-matter information in a manner that can be understood and remembered by low-achieving adolescents.
- 4) Adolescents should have a major voice in decisions about what strategies they are to learn and how fast they are to learn these strategies.

Building on the four principles listed above, two interventions were developed to address the performance gap (the gap between what students are expected to do and what they are able to do).

- 1) Content Enhancement Routines
 - these are teacher-focused interventions directed toward how teachers think about, adapt, and present their critical content in a “learner-friendly” fashion.
 - routines consist of inclusive teaching practices that help teachers organize and present critical information in such a way that students identify, organize, comprehend and recall it
- 2) Learning Strategies
 - strategies are student-focused interventions designed to provide the skills and strategies students need to learn the content
 - these sets encompasses strategies for acquiring information from the printed word, for organizing and memorizing information, for solving math problems, and for expressing information in writing

SIM also offers a planning technique, (SMARTER), used as a framework for making decisions about content at the course, unit and lesson levels of planning.

The key to making strategic instruction a reality is to realize that it takes time – months or years even- and a strong administrative and instructional commitment.

For further information, contact Seneca High School, Dawn Roalson (L.E.A.S.E.) or www.ku-crl.org/sim.