

August/ 2015

Enhanced Learning Opportunities Report:

Prepared by Peter Rosenkranz, Director of Enhanced Learning Opportunities.

I am excited to provide a quick update to what is happening in the world of Enhanced Learning Opportunities for La Center students. It is amazing to think that we have been working on this for only about five months – the growth and learning have been amazing and exciting.

Continuum of Service for Kids:

The continuum we have been working on since the spring is coming together. There are a few finishing touches we need to complete and we will be ready. This week we are conducting additional para-educator interviews to fill out our service plan and ready to work with students this fall.

Professional Development:

Attending the Special Education conference August 5-7, I was able to establish/reinforce the network of Special Education Directors from around the region, additionally, I was able to connect with colleagues from around the state and at OSPI. Valuable contacts can help with questions that arise with the various reports and grant applications that are required as well as questions about serving students. I was able to gain valuable information about what is happening at the state level as well as information from the new director session which is required for new directors.

As we look forward we are planning on having our para-educators and special education teachers connect prior to school starting so we can maximize our student impact from the very first day of classes. Additionally we have added ten minutes a day for our para-educators to connect with staff for either a prep and/or debrief for the school day. Communication is a cornerstone for how we are trying to coordinate services for students.

Students:

Today I was able to meet one of our new middle school students who has just transferred into the district. She is participating in summer school to help build skills for the coming year as well as learning a new school environment. I have heard many stories about this student so I couldn't wait to get a chance to meet her personally. Carrie Lindsey was walking with her on the playground as they were going to their physical education activity when I had a chance to meet her and visit. I received a great big hug and had a chance to say hello, receiving a warm welcome from her. She seems to be adjusting nicely. We are truly blessed to have a chance to work with all our kids throughout the year, she is a reminder of why we choose this amazing profession. It was great to see Carrie Lindsey working with this student as she brings a wealth of information to our students and I am happy we have Carrie on our team.