



NARRAGANSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Through professional development, we strive to grow and change as professionals to meet the academic challenges faced daily in our classrooms and schools. We then model the commitment to life-long learning we want to impart to our students. The Narragansett Regional School District will provide a variety of quality professional development opportunities for the 2011 - 2012 school year.

It is the goal of our professional development program to provide administrators, teachers and support staff with opportunities to expand their knowledge base and educational perspective. Our primary focus is to provide a culture of teaching and learning within our schools that recognizes that we all continuously learn from each other—and our learning never ends! We see an educational culture in which the administration, faculty and staff feel safe to take risks with new and varied research-based teaching strategies, styles and methodologies.

Teachers may receive Professional Development Points and/or graduate credits through courses, workshops and other activities in this booklet, or through individual professional development teaching and/or curriculum activities that have been approved by the school principal and the Curriculum Director. The forms for FY 12 in-district and out-of-district requests are available on the Narragansett Regional School District web site.

If a faculty member finds a workshop, conference, or program that will enhance this year's curriculum or that will support the school, district or individual improvement plans, he/she may seek participation approval through the Principal and the Curriculum Director. (See Professional Development Activity Proposal Form). The District may then pay for the program with the proviso that the faculty member make a presentation to school or other district faculty, or present a research paper for dissemination within the district. Copies of curriculum products developed through district professional funding must be submitted to the Central Administration Office.

If a faculty member cannot find anything applicable to his/her individual, school or district needs, they may apply to attend a college course at an approved college or university. The Superintendent must approve the college or university course. Faculty members, who meet the contractual notification obligation, will receive tuition remission for up to the cost of a three-credit course at FSC for the approved course after a satisfactory report card grade has been issued. This is subject to funding availability.

The District will continue to use technology to enhance communication. Notice of professional development updates (including new offerings and cancellations) will be published on the Narragansett website.

Among the Goals to be achieved through professional development offerings are:

- To follow the District’s “No Child Left Behind” and Strategic Improvement Plan
- To improve the District’s MCAS scores by teaching our students using a standards-based approach which concentrates on differentiated instruction and assessment.
- To improve our students’ ability to write effectively—at all grade levels!
- To improve our students’ ability to read for comprehension and understanding at all grade levels.
- To improve our teachers’ ability to function in inclusive classrooms.
- To improve our administrators’ ability to lead their schools and collaborate effectively with our teachers.
- To improve the use of technology as a meaningful tool for instruction within the schools.
- To improve our knowledge and understanding of learning theory, multiple intelligences and how teaching styles must match the learning styles of our students.

DISTRICT-WIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

- Thursday August 25, 2011 (Full)
- Wednesday September 21, 2011 (Half)
- Tuesday October 25, 2011 (Half)
- Tuesday November 8, 2011 (Full)
- Friday January 20, 2012 (Half)
- Wednesday March 28, 2012 (Half)
- Tuesday May 1, 2012 (Half)

Half-day Professional Development Times

- High School – 10:50 – 12:00 & 12:35 – 2:03 pm (Lunch 12:00 -12:30 pm)
- Middle School – 12:20 – 2:47 pm (Lunch 11:45 -12:15 pm)
- Elementary - 1:00- 3:00 pm (Lunch 12:15 -12:45 pm)

Ongoing Professional Development Initiatives

District Essential Question: How does my / our work influence student learning?

High School

Focus: Building and Developing Professional Learning Communities

Facilitators: Shawn Rickan & Tom Miller

Middle School

Focus: Positive Teaming and Inclusion

Facilitator(s): Peter Cushing & Tara Flannery

Elementary

Focus: Promoting Student Independence

Facilitators: Patricia O’Connor & Joanna Cackett

Special Education

Inclusion

The District will continue to work with Carol Kosnitsky to improve our inclusionary model of delivering services to all students, including special education students. We will focus on setting up a model intervention that flows smoothly, and on such issues as grading and grouping.



SECOND & THIRD TEACHER INSTITUTE

STUDY GROUPS

The Massachusetts Department of Education has suggested guidelines for study groups. There is a need for the professional development committee to create Narragansett Guidelines. When this is done staff will be able to submit proposals that will enable them to earn either general or content specific PDPs

TOOLS FOR TEACHERS

These are mini-workshops that may be offered from time to time that are designed to give you more tools to improve teaching and learning. Check the NRSD website for additional offerings throughout the year.

ANTICIPATED COMING ATTRACTIONS

This listing of Professional Development may be added to throughout the year as needs and programs to meet those needs are identified by the various curriculum committees. Notification of these will be sent via e-mail. Some tentatively planned programs still need details to be worked out.

D.E.S.E. SUMMER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTES

For the past fourteen years the Massachusetts Department of Education has offered free statewide professional development graduate-level institutes designed to increase the content and pedagogical knowledge of Massachusetts educators. Institutes have been offered in a wide range of content areas and for all grade levels. The district has partnered with Winchendon and Garner to provide other institutes within easy travel of our staff. Watch for the postings of these in the early spring of 2012

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Procedures for Approval and Reimbursement

1. Obtain the appropriate REQUEST FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT form from your building administrative assistant or on the NRSD web site. Please note that there are new forms each year.
2. Complete the form and attach a copy of a flyer, brochure or course description that describes the Professional Development.
3. Make sure that your requested program falls within the District or School Improvement Plans or your Individual Professional Development Plan (which was approved by your Principal). If you do not have an approved Professional Development Plan, please see your Principal for further information. Note-To receive PDPs for your Program, it must meet at least ten (10) total hours. Otherwise, the PDP provider will give certificates of attendance which may be bundled.
4. Copy the form and return the original to your building Principal for approval at least five school days in advance of the start date of the program.
5. After approving your request, you or your principal will forward it to the Director of Curriculum for final approval. Professional development that will be paid for through a grant must have the signature of the Grant Coordinator.
6. If the request is approved, the form will be sent back to you.
7. If there is a fee for the program and you have been approved for reimbursement, save a copy of your registration and payment receipt to submit for reimbursement.
Note-Each pre-approved teacher (see contract) is granted up to the cost of a course at FSC for the 2011-2012 School Year for Professional Development. If the request is incomplete, the form will be sent back for completion and then it should be returned to the Assistant Superintendent.
8. If the request is denied, you may meet with the Assistant Superintendent to offer further information and/or discuss the decision. The decision may be appealed to the Superintendent.

REIMBURSEMENT

1. After the Program is completed obtain the form REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT from the web site.
2. If the Program was an In-service, Workshop, or Conference, please attach a copy of the Certificate of Completion, or the PDP Award Certificate to the form. Also, attach a copy of your registration and payment receipt
3. If the Program was a course, please attach a copy of the transcript or grade report that shows the number of credits and the course grade. Also, attach a copy of the registration and payment receipt. A satisfactory grade must be earned to obtain reimbursement.
4. Finally, resubmit a copy of the approved REQUEST FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT form and return the packet to your Principal for approval.
5. The approved form will be sent to the Assistant Superintendent for final approval.
6. After final approval, it will be sent to the District's Accountant for reimbursement.

PDPs	COLLEGE CREDITS	NRSD CREDITS
10 hours and product that meets criteria or pre- and – post assessments 1hr = 1 PDP	Determined by issuing college 1 = 15 hrs	1 = one academic credit or 1 = 15 hrs plus product(s) meeting district established criteria

- Certificates of professional development attendance will be issued for all District professional development of duration less than 10 hours and/or that do not result in a product.
- PDPs will be issued for District professional development offerings that run 10 hours and longer and that result in a product or a pre and post assessment. The product must meet established criteria.
- NRSD credits will be issued in the amount and under the conditions outlined in the professional development description.
- Staff may convert a total of 10 hours of Narragansett certificates of Professional Development attendance to PDPs with evidence of an approved product. Please submit request to the Assistant Superintendent and note the content area.