

THE CURRENT



*St. Croix River Education District
405 South Dana Avenue/PO Box 637
Rush City, MN 55069 320-358-3616, 651-674-2436*

***VOLUME XXIV
June 2013***

By Kim Gibbons, Executive Director

Special Interest Articles:

Adult Basic Education 5
Spotlight on Interventions 10-11

Individual Highlights:

Instructional Services 2
UL Corner 3-4
Low Incidence 6-8
Early Childhood 9
Mini DAPE Challenge 12-13
SCRED Announcements 14

SCRED Website
www.scred.k12.mn.us

**Follow us on Facebook and
Twitter**

Facebook:

[http://www.facebook.com/pages/
St-Croix-River-Education-
District/159947326601?fref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Croix-River-Education-District/159947326601?fref=ts)

Twitter:
[@infoScred](https://twitter.com/infoScred)

As the school year winds down to a close, I am reflecting about all that has been accomplished this year! As usual, SCRED provided numerous high-quality professional development opportunities throughout the year aimed at increasing student outcomes for all our learners. We have continued our pursuit of implementing a Response to Intervention (RtI) framework with all member districts. SCRED has assisted member districts with data review meetings, training of grade level team facilitators, problem solving team training, and training on high-quality interventions! Three curriculum groups were networked this year: social studies, family and consumer sciences, and guidance. Each group met five times and studied “Best Practices” in their area. A Legislative Forum was held in December for local and federal legislators. School Board Members, and District Administrative Teams where educational issues were shared with local and federal legislators. While SCRED staff were busy keeping up with the demands of their jobs this year, they were also packing up their things to move into jobs this year and they were also packing up their things to move into our new facility! We quickly settled in and got back in the business of serving our member districts. Thanks to all of our member districts for their patience and flexibility during this transition process! Now, we are busy preparing to “open school” in the Fall and excited to continue in our quest to improve student outcomes through a relentless focus on instruction!

Instructional Services Update
Instructional Services Team
Kerry Bollman, Barb Scierka, Julie Seldon, and Jennifer Lake

Happy Spring from your Instructional Services Team! As you are beginning to think about summer, we want to share some great resources that may be of interest for your summer reading and learning:

Response to Intervention and Precision Teaching.

This new book by Kent Johnson and Elizabeth Street (Morningside Academy) provides high quality information about precision teaching strategies and their benefits in an RtI system. This may be of particular interest to those working with students with complex learning needs.

Visible Learning for Teachers: Maximizing Impact on Learning

This book by John Hattie is a companion to his original Visible Learning book, and focuses on practical strategies for classroom teachers to increase instructional effectiveness.

Academic Conversations: Classroom Talk that Fosters Critical Thinking and Content Understanding

This book by Jeff Zwiers and Marie Crowford provides strategies for enhancing 5 core communication skills among students in order to promote academic conversations.

Best Math Strategies from Singapore: Model Drawing for Grades 1-6

Best Math Strategies from Singapore: Advanced Model Drawing for Grades 6-9

These online courses offered through Bureau of Education Research (BER) provide quality instruction on the use of the Singapore Bar Model, a research supported strategy that addresses math problem solving skills.

*UNIQUE LEARNERS' CORNER:
August Professional Learning Opportunities
By Jamie Nord, Director of Special Education*

This year's annual Unique Learners' Conference will be held on August 20, 2013 at Rush City High School. The large group morning session will focus on general special education updates, Top 10 Lessons Learned from Compliance: Year 2 and Assistive Technology. We have listened to your feedback on last year's compliance session and therefore plan to give you more of this in August! In addition, a variety of topics and updates will be covered in the afternoon through smaller service area specific meetings facilitated by Collaborative Planners and Unique Learners' Managers.

We are excited to offer a day dedicated to the professional learning of paraprofessionals working in the SCRED districts. Last year, we resurrected this idea and the feedback on the day was very positive! The SCRED Paraprofessional Conference will be held on August 28, 2013. The morning large-group session, to be held in the North Branch Area High School Auditorium, will focus on Fostering Independence in our students. In the mid-morning and afternoon, participants will transition over to the North Branch Area Learning Center for a variety of breakout session offerings. Paraprofessionals can select three sessions to attend based on their specific assignments and professional learning needs (see table below).

Service Area	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
Academic	Reading Intervention: Great Leaps Reading	Math Intervention: Duet Math	Kurzweil
Low Incidence	Lifts, Transfers & How to Position Students	Understanding and Applying Practices Leading to Student Growth and Learning	Individual Positive Behavior Plans
Low Incidence	Communicating and Having A Good Relationship with Your PE Teacher	Communication Strategies	
Low Incidence		Functional Signs 101	Functional Signs 201
Social/Behavior	Observation Strategies	Managing Challenging Behavior	Strategies that Work for Behavior!
Early Childhood	MRC Reading Interventions	SEEDs Refresher (Part 1)	SEEDs Refresher (Part 2)
General Special Education	Top 10 Special Education Topics for Paras	Top 10 Special Education Topics for Paras	Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS) Training

Unique Learners' Corner – continued

Registration for these August staff development opportunities and many others is available on the SCRED website: www.scred.k12.mn.us. In addition, we have posted the SCRED August Course Catalog on the website to provide detailed information regarding the offerings that includes a description, date, time, location, outcome, and target audience. Please be sure to register for trainings prior to leaving for your well-deserved summer vacation! We look forward to seeing you all in August.

Adult Basic Education Update
By Sally Welsh,
Adult Basic Education Service Manager

Big Changes coming to GED testing in the 2013-2014 school year

January 1, 2014 will bring an end to the current GED test and testing process and the launch of some big changes. The current paper and pencil GED test will sunset on December 31st. 2013 The SCRED districts will also see the end of the testing location at Pine City High School. Once the test changes, any student's test that is still "in process" will no longer be valid. This student will have to retest in all subjects under the new test in order to complete and receive their GED. There is a statewide effort to encourage Adult Basic Education students to finish testing before January 2014. We have a consortium wide advertising campaign in place as well. Please encourage anyone you know in the process of obtaining their GED to complete before Jan 2014. Adult Basic Education class opportunities in our area can be found on the SCRED website at http://www.scred.k12.mn.us/community_programs/a_b_e

The new test will bring changes on several levels. The new test will only be administered through Pearson testing centers. It will be entirely electronically based; there will be no paper and pencil option for students. The content and tests are changing as well. The current test has five subject areas, the new test will be condensed into four subject areas, including literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies—will measure a foundational core of knowledge and skills that are essential for career and college readiness. The new test will also have several scoring levels, still to be determined. The idea is that a tester could look at a score and determine from the number if they are at a high school level equivalent, or a higher score could indicate college readiness. More information on the new GED test is available at <http://www.gedtestingservice.com/>

The local testing site will change from Pine City High School to the St. Croix River Education District building located in Rush City. Plans are under way to equip the training center with the necessary technology to become an approved Pearson GED testing center. For more information on any Adult Basic Education topic, please contact Sally Welsh at swelsh@scred.k12.mn.us.

Low Incidence Update
By Marleen Zak
Secondary Low Incidence Collaborative Planner



What's Working

• DCD

Developmental Cognitive Disabilities programs improved teacher implementation of alternate core math curricula. Teachers use Saxon Math, Trans Math, Connecting Math Concepts, AGS Life Skills and Consumer Math, Equals and STAR pre-math readiness activities. All DCD programs have a method to monitor and adjust student instruction for mathematics. Teachers report a significant improvement in the quality of instructional materials now available in their DCD programs.

Students show growth in their ability to participate in the four target areas for every literacy lesson: guided reading, word study, writing, and self selected reading. Teachers increased use of assistive technologies and supplemental materials and strategies that fit a four blocks method of literacy instruction for students with significant and complex disabilities. Teachers report a gain in confidence and skills to implement interventions. Student results on progress monitoring show growth.

• SLP

School Speech and Language Pathologists completed several projects to assist parents and staff with ideas for interventions. The group created documents to use in the RTI process at their school buildings. The SLP group created pages for the SCRED web site. There is a Parent Corner for information parents may want to access with general information about intervention strategies and resources. The group also created a Professional group for networking and staff development. The group organized resource links and documents within the containers in this SLP members section of the SCRED web site.



Announcing...

ANNOUNCING A NEW PRODUCT COMING TO YOU IN AUGUST

TRAX will be our new online Transition Assessment and Transition Planning tool starting August 20. Each Collaborative Planner will introduce the product during the August UL Conference afternoon sessions.

Cindy Bruning will take over the duties of the Low Incidence Collaborative Planner for Elementary starting in July 2013. Welcome to the new position Cindy!

ASD: Watch for licensure course work offered at North Branch through St. Cloud State University.

Additional services were added to accommodate early childhood related services for Physical Therapy.

Low Incidence – continued

Secondary Transition Services and Third Annual Pine County Work Skills Day Held
 Congratulations to the Pine City High School Team placing first at the Pine County Work Skills Day event held May 1, 2013. The event was held at Hinckley-Finlayson High School. Aaron Cross from Motivation on Wheels was the guest speaker following the employment skills event competition for students. Students on the Pine City team included: Samantha Dick, Michael LeDuc, Nathaniel Gross, Joslin Pezalla, Justine Torgerson, Jade Lindquist-Back, Nicoleta Galbraith, and Joshua Zerwas.

Teacher advisors for the event were Deb Hultman, Terri Roberto, Melissa Ecklund, and James Foster.

Thanks to the local business in the county who participated as event judges for the competition. Students competed in 3 events: Interview Skills, Job Application, and Job Problem Solving Skills. Thank you to the following community volunteers:

Vicki Kroschel, Grand Casino, Hinckley	Jeff Menigo, Old Oak Inn, Pine City
Corey Berube, Frandsen Bank & Trust, Pine City	Connie Mikrot, Lake State Federal Credit Union
Lara Smetana, Voyageur Bottle Shop	Patricia Beneze, Family Pathways
Kristee Thorvig, Chris' Food Center, Sandstone & Pine City	Sally Welsh, Adult Basic Education, St. Croix River Education District
Kathryn Johnson, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Dept of Employment & Economic Development	Katie Krier, Pine Technical College Jane Larson, Pine Technical College

Other schools with teams participating in the event were Visions, East Central High School and Hinckley-Finlayson. Each student is given specific feedback on their employability skills from the community business persons. The event is similar to a job fair. The theme of the motivational speaker was to encourage all students to focus on their target. Aaron Cross inspired students to make ambitious goals.

36th Annual Work Skills Day Held

The 36th Annual Work Skills Day was February 22 at Lakes Free Church, Lindstrom. Forty-three 11th-12th grade students enrolled in Employability Skills Seminar classes from North Branch, Chisago Lakes and Rush City high schools competed in Job Applications, Job Interviewing and Job Problem Solving.

Low Incidence - continued

Area business persons who volunteered their time to serve as judges for the event were: Sandy Neff, Walmart, Forest Lake Susan Gogerty, Parmly LifePointes, Chisago Lakes Mike McNally, Dupont, Chisago City Donna Westman, Rush City Food Service, Rush City Kevin Stenson, Lakes Area Police, Lindstrom Mike Ginal, Horizon Milling, Rush City Michelle Berglund, Room For Growing, ChisagoCity Ann Sandberg, Almelund Mercantile Lora O'Hern, retired educator Bonita Carlson, Family Pathways Betsy Sandgren, ChisagoLakes Community Education Jennifer Hegstad, CLHS, Lindstrom Peggy Countryman, Chisago County Human Services Joanne Ploetz, retired business owner Diane Menard, retired educator Crystal Wolcott, Rise Inc Charley Klopp, NB Community Education Katie Hartl, Vocational Rehabilitation Services Susan Wehrenburg, Chisago Lakes Achievement Center Darlene Kartt, Chisago County Human Services Other agencies contributing to the day: Cambridge Workforce Center, NBHS Career Center, Circle of Friends, We R Able, Rise Inc, Anoka Ramsey Community College, Central Lakes College, Century College, Central Bank, Pine Technical College, People First/SAM, Central MN Jobs and Training. Guest speaker for the day was Kit Welchlin.

Award winners from are as follows: Interviewing:

1st—McKayla Beaver/NB 2nd—Blake Nelson/CL 3rd—Garrett McMillen/NB 4th—ShyAnn Hentges/NB 5th—Samantha Lindsey/CL Problem Solving: 1st—Matt Weaver/CL 2nd—McKayla Beaver/NB 3rd—Tom Dolan/CL 4th—Jake Armstrong/NB 5th—Samantha Lindsey/CL Honorable Mention: James Weigel/NB Application Forms: 1st--Kimberly Martinez/NB 2nd—James Weigel/NB 3rd—ShyAnn Hentges/NB 4th—Jake Armstrong/NB 5th—Mitchell Beckwith/NB. This event is a “real life” demonstration of skills students have learned in the classroom over the past few months. Having the educational community partnering together with the local business community like this, is a huge benefit for these Chisago County students.

The Chisago County Work Experience Coordinators, Janelle McNally, North Branch, Mickelle Pohlman, Chisago Lakes, Linda Lindeman, Rush City, worked together to plan the event, with support from SCRED, St. Croix River Education District.

SCANS-STEP Program

The first year of a project to develop a mentorship program for employment skills met the target goals. There were 33 students who participated in the instructional phase of the program. Nine of those students completed on the job mentorships. 22 Community Business sites were developed in year one of the project. Tools to assist teachers to help students plan for Post-Secondary Transition were developed. Next year, the grant will continue with a focus to improve support to teachers.

Early Childhood Update
By Karen Wolner,
Early Childhood Collaborative Planner

Spring is finally here! Early childhood special education teachers are wrapping up evaluations, and holding transition conferences in preparation for our students moving on to Kindergarten in September. There is much to accomplish in the short time remaining.

We are in the process of our spring data collection and staff will soon be analyzing their data to see the final outcomes from the past school year. The five literacy areas we collect data on are: Picture Naming, Rhyming, Alliteration, Letter Naming Fluency, and Letter Sound Fluency. We will review the data to see what areas of learning most of the children were/were not close to target on. We know that in the classroom the Language Environment, Repeated Read Aloud, and Print and Early Writing impact the child data. If we do not get the outcomes we wanted, we then discuss what instructional changes we can make to achieve the outcomes we want next year.

One last important update is the pilot project Pine City Early Childhood and Rush City Early Childhood are doing in conjunction with current research at the University of Minnesota. We are in the last data collection period. They are doing a comparison study of our current literacy measures the Individual and Growth Developmental Indicators (IGDI 1.0) with the newly revised IGDI 2.0. We are excited to be a part of this research project and look forward to seeing the outcomes of this study.

Spotlight on Interventions
By Melissa Chinn,
Instructional Coach

In Minnesota, we learn to be cautious of drawing sweeping conclusions about our weather. However, I think it's finally safe to say spring has sprung! Hooray!

With the advent of spring, educators are sometimes caught off-guard by the rapid onset of a specific seasonal "disorder" in their students – spring fever! Thankfully, most cases of spring fever are very mild. Symptoms are usually well-managed by implementing a few simple strategies, such as reinforcing classroom rules and expectations, rewarding positive behavior, incorporating more creative activities and projects, and utilizing the outdoors or the "real world" during instruction.

Occasionally educators may experience an individual or group of students who don't respond well to tried-and-true strategies and are in need of additional behavior-based instruction and support. Below are two excellent resources recommended by District Staff and SCRED Collaborative Planners to help with those situations, both now, and throughout the entire school year.

1) PBIS World (www.pbisworld.com) is a website containing links to hundreds of interventions, supports, resources, and data collection tools, all of which are organized into a Tier 1 through Tier 3 framework. It is designed to help users through the PBIS implementation process, starting with behavior identification and offering suggestions for interventions and data collection tools. For a very small fee, users can also download the PBIS World Book, which contains all the information from the site in one document. All links with footnotes on both PBISWorld.com and in the PBIS World Book link to external websites for additional reference or resources.

2) ClassDojo (www.classdojo.com) is a classroom tool that helps teachers track and provide feedback of behavior for either individual students or small groups of students. ClassDojo is customizable, and can be designed to target specific behaviors to match the age, activities, and needs of students. The application analyzes each child's progress overall, as well as each type of behavior. Results can be easily shared with the students, their parents, and/or administrators. The program can be run on an interactive whiteboard, a computer connected to a projector, or downloaded as an app to your mobile device.

Spotlight on Interventions – continued

Hopefully, you will also find these very helpful resources and tools to address the behavior needs in your classrooms. I also hope you enjoy a fabulous spring and a fantastic summer!

“It's spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And when you've got it, you want - oh, you don't quite know what it is you do want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!”— Mark Twain

Mini DAPE Challenge May 2013

Inclement Weather No Match for DAPE Spirit

The past two years many students in Chisago Lakes receiving Developmental Adapted Physical Education (DAPE) have participated in a DAPE Challenge traveling to North Branch and Rush City to join students from North Branch, Rush City, Pine City, and East Central. This year's challenge was set for Pine City. The DAPE Challenge was supposed to be a fun day of activities designed just for them. Due to the weather it was canceled. At Lakeside Elementary 4th grade teacher Mark Nordby knew many of the DAPE students were looking forward to a fun day outside and a couple kids were crying in the hallway and he thought, "Heck, I'd be crying too." So, it dawned on him that his class had time and could get something pulled together.

Everything was organized very quickly with ideas and support contributed by several staff. Mark went straight into his 4th grade class, explained what was going on and asked them to brainstorm some fun activities that they could do. Once they had 8-10 activities on a sheet, he sent students to the gym and outside to collect the equipment, others to get prizes, while still others were making signs for the various stations. "I don't know how but within 15 minutes we were outside, had eight stations set up, had assigned two kids to run each station, and the rest were "buddies" that accompanied the DAPE students," Nordby said

Lots of teamwork went into pulling off this event. Shelley Wilmer, Speech Pathologist showed Mark what activities were going to be at the original challenge and they modified. Mark asked physical education teacher Sue Frame if he could use her equipment outside for a mini DAPE challenge, Sue wasn't even sure where it was going to be because she had the mile run for her class that day. Mark had his students set up the course in the middle of the mile run. Barb Nelson from the behavior room put 10 treat bags together for the DAPE students to have after the challenge. Mara Tyler, Special Education teacher pointed out, "I'm sure so much more went on that I don't even know about." Mara added, "The paraprofessionals that work with my students were flexible, took pictures, were cheerleaders, and made sure that students who could be out there were out at the mini DAPE challenge." The excitement of being with their peers turned everyone's day around. She continued, "I think this activity made me happier than the kids! I loved seeing Mark's 4th grade class take over and take my students to each activity, cheer them on, and make my students whole day so much brighter!" "My students were rock stars running the show and it's probably a memory I'll cherish forever," Nordby concluded, "That sounds a bit sappy but it was pretty special to watch."

Article written by Darla Beckmann, DAPE Teacher SCRED/Chisago Lakes

[DAPE Challenge photos – next page]

Mini DAPE Challenge – continued



“We’re number one!”

SCRED Announcements

We have a number of staff who are leaving SCRED for new opportunities. While we are sorry to see quality people leave the organization, we wish them the best of luck in their new jobs!

- Kerry Bollman, Instructional Services Coordinator, is leaving SCRED to work for TIES.
- Sarah Brown, Unique Learner's Manager, is leaving SCRED to be a Bureau Chief for the Iowa State Department of Education.
- Robyn Smith, SCRED Social Behavior Collaborative Planner, has accepted a job closer to home in the St. Francis School District.
- Rachel Heppner, School Nurse for North Branch, is returning to clinical practice.
- Katy Kauls, School Social Worker for North Branch, has resigned to be at home with her little one.
- Emily Gorski, School Psychologist for Chisago Lakes Schools, has accepted a position with the Minneapolis Public Schools.
- Dean Fokken, School Psychologist for Hinckley-Finlayson and East Central will be retiring. Congratulations, Dean!
- Judy Cope, School Nurse for Rush City Schools will be retiring. Congratulations, Judy!
- Colleen Sponberg, ABE Teacher for Chisago Lakes School District will be retiring. Congratulations, Colleen!

Welcome New Staff!

- Sara Hillgartner will be the new DHH teacher for SCRED.
- Kelly Demers will be the new School Psychologist for North Branch Middle School.
- Kaitlin O'Shea will be the new School Psychologist for East Central Schools and Hinckley-Finlayson High School.
- Deborah Meissner will be the new School Nurse for Rush City Schools.
- Brandie Christenson will be the new School Nurse for North Branch Schools.
- Holly Grams will be the new Social Behavior Collaborative Planner for SCRED.

Other changes at SCRED:

- Cindy Bruning, SCRED DHH teacher, will be the new Low Incidence Collaborative Planner.
- Nicole Woodward, SCRED School Psychologist, will be starting in a new role as Unique Learner's Manager for SCRED.
- Melissa Chinn, SCRED Instructional Coach, will transition into the role of School Psychologist for Hinckley-Finlayson and Pine City School Districts.
- Sam Sabaka, SCRED School Psychologist, will be working in the Chisago Lakes School District.