

Professional Learning Activity: Developing a Schoolwide Writing Plan

Objectives:

- To introduce and become familiar with the document, *Developing a Schoolwide Writing Plan*
- To spark discussion about the various roles and needs for successful implementation of a schoolwide writing plan

Preparation:

- Materials: highlighters, sticky notes, chart paper, markers, copies of the document, *Developing a Schoolwide Writing Plan*
- Write headings on sheets of chart paper for the various roles you wish to use to spark discussion and thinking (e.g. language arts teacher, other content area teacher, principal, district curriculum support leader)

Activity:

1. Introduce the document and its purpose as shown on the KDE website: “This guidance document is designed to help schools develop, implement and monitor school writing plans. It offers questions to consider in reflecting on the curriculum, instruction, assessments and supports that will ensure students’ literacy needs are met related to writing and communication skills.”
2. Ask participants to consider what it will take to develop and implement a school’s writing plan and the different roles involved in the process.
3. Assign roles to small groups. Ask participants to read from the perspective assigned and to think about the following questions. They may take notes, use post-its, or highlight on the text to record their thinking.
 - *What needs to happen for you to do your part in developing or implementing your school’s writing plan?*
 - *What do you need to do and what support will you need?*
4. After everyone has had time to read and respond independently, ask groups to discuss the implications for the assigned perspective. Ask groups to chart their thoughts and be ready to share with the whole group.
5. Guide whole group discussion beginning with teacher roles, then principal, then district roles and support.
6. **Closure of discussion:** How do we create the mind-set of a positive process?
(For example, schools have the opportunity to look closely at their school’s writing program and implement improvement to support student learning. Schools also have the luxury of time to develop, implement, and reflect upon their writing plans before these become part of accountability in 2011/2012.)