

The Implementation of the Little Chute Area School District Research-Based Active Literacy Model

A District retreat was held during the 2004-05 school year for the purpose of examining the District reading programs PreK-12. With the intent to improve student achievement, this retreat led to the development of a committee which would make a recommendation on a comprehensive literacy plan to meet the District reading goal.

This committee, facilitated by Jennifer McDermot and Jim Neubert, included the following teachers and administrators: Paula Klukas, Irene Fanta, Marva Ohman, Chuck Boland, Rochelle Huss, Mary Jansen, Lisa Klein, Julie Van Cuyk, Steve Timm, Barb Peeters, Kathryn Schlagenhaft, Georgina Kaschner, Dorene Pepin, and Kym Schmidt.

It was decided to contract with CESA 6 with the goal of improving our PreK-12 literacy program to directly impact professional development and student achievement. CESA 6 literacy specialist Kathy Schmitt developed a multi-year plan incorporating best research-based practices in vocabulary instruction, comprehension strategies, and cognitive visual mapping tools (Thinking Maps®). A coaching component was also incorporated into the plan to ensure that teachers had the support necessary to implement these tools into their classrooms.

In the fall of 2007 a District Literacy Administrator was hired to manage the transition of the literacy plan from CESA 6 to in-District. Deb Truymen worked collaboratively with CESA 6 consultants Kathy Schmitt and Linda Reetz, the District Literacy Committee and Building Literacy Committees to coordinate and adjust the plan as needed to make it a model that best fits the learners of the Little Chute Area School District. The present product, the *Active Literacy Model*, embodies the time, talent, and commitment of Administration, teachers, CESA 6, the Board of Education, and the families of the school district.

Change is constant - with that understanding, we will continue to collect student achievement data that measures the effectiveness of our Active Literacy Model. The Little Chute Area School District and all its stakeholders will use this data to continuously research and implement literacy strategies that increase the reading, writing, and thinking capacity for all students.