ELA Think Tank / Leadership

September transitioned quickly into October; hence, we have a combined September – October update.

News from the Office of Standards & Instructional Support

Survey Monkey for ELA Think Tank Results:
Who responded:
- 53% of respondents = rural
- 27% of respondents = suburban
- 20% of respondents = urban
- 20% of respondents = teachers
- 33% of respondents = district curriculum specialists
- 20% of respondents = literacy specialists
- 07% of respondents = ELA content specialists

Topics for consideration:
- Text complexity resources
- Vocabulary resources
- Standards-based literacy instruction; PARCC construction
- PBL, STEM initiatives and literacy instruction
- Word Study at the secondary level
- Instructional practices to meet the increased challenge of CAS/CCSS

(See the document accompanying this email for the “raw data” of the Survey responses.)

CDE News

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) will shape our work in the future. CDE has set up an ESSA Blog to help gather and disseminate information.

CDE has been in the process of drafting its ESSA state plan. I know that a handful of our ELA Think Tank is serving on the Standards Spoke Committee and participating on that work. You can see the work on Colorado’s ESSA State Plan Development here.

Educator Licensing has recently updated the worksheet for ELA Grades 7-12 when applicants want an additional endorsement or are seeking an alternative license. You can view the updated worksheet here.

NCTE, CCIRA, CLAS Notes

CLAS: The Colorado Language Arts Society’s 2016 Regional Fall Conference is just two weeks away (October 15): “For the Love of Teaching / Reclaiming the Classroom.”

- Read the Session Previews here!
- See the Schedule and register here.

This year’s speakers include Taylor Mali, Jimmy Santiago Baca, and Sarah Brown Wessling.

NCTE: Participate in NCTE’s “Day on Writing” October 20, 2016. Read more here. Please let me know (send pics, too) of any activities you do in your classes, schools, and districts! #WhyIWrite

CCIRA: The Colorado Council International Reading Association is looking forward to its 2017 Conference: “Golden Ingredients for 50 Years of Literacy,” February 4-7.

Upcoming Webinar

Tuesday, October 11, I will be hosting a webinar covering PARCC test construction in English Language Arts / Literacy.

The presentation will address the PARCC task types and assessment blueprints; most importantly, the webinar will continue our conversation on standards-based literacy instruction and on the necessity of disciplinary literacy approaches. The webinar will be from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. A link to the webinar will be forthcoming.

Contact Info

Please feel free to contact me at puzick_v@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6583. I would love to have feedback on the monthly e-update or hear suggestions for topics you would like to have addressed.