



Rural School Innovations Webinar Series

New England Network for Personalization and Performance (NETWORK):

Created by the Plymouth, MA School District,
Center for Secondary School Redesign, Inc., (CSSR)

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

2:00 PM EDT

Welcome

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Introduction: Robert Mahaffey, Director Communications

Overview: Margaret MacLean, Capacity Building Training Coordinator



Presenters:

Joe DiMartino, President, Center for Secondary School Redesign, Inc.

Chris Geraghty, Teacher, Kearsarge High School

Steve Beals, Principal, Laconia High School

John Freeman, Superintendent from Pittsfield NH

NETWORK

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Students who participate in inquiry-based learning experiences tied to performance assessments will experience success in school and be better prepared for college and/or career experiences.

Rural High School Vision

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- This innovation envisions a redesigned rural high school where learning happens anytime, anyplace, and where students demonstrate their learning through complex, rigorous performance assessments.
- This builds on very innovative work that has been accomplished in a number of rural schools in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont that have implemented performance-based initiatives.

Investing in Innovation (i3) Competition

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- i3 Development Grant of \$5,000,000

- Required match being provided by:
 - Nellie Mae Education Foundation
 - Rural School and Community Trust

- Sites include 11 Districts, – 8 from rural communities. (Bristol, VT, Bristol, Laconia, Pittsfield, New London, Milton, Raymond, NH and Berwick, ME)

New Hampshire Policy Environment

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New Hampshire initiatives to personalize learning

- Requires that students earn course credit through demonstration of mastery of course competencies.
- Allows for learning to take place any where any time.

Kearsarge High School

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Kearsarge High School

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Goal of using these assessments:

- Promotes engagement for students the material and skills
- Ownership of one's learning
- Addresses the idea of relevance to the student and world outside of school

Kearsarge High School

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Connections within a rural community:

- Great opportunity to use community resources
- Allows for greater opportunities for internships
- Authentic Assessments promote real world interactions with the community

Kearsarge High School

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Examples of Assessments:

- KRHS Social Studies Symposium – US History, Psychology, and Economics
- 9th Grade World Tour
- 10th Grade Decades Project
- Developing Senior Project and other Formative/Summative Assessments through work with the NETWORK

Laconia High School

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Laconia High School

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Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO)

The acquisition and application of knowledge and skills through instruction or study outside of the traditional classroom methodology, including, but not limited, to:

- Apprenticeships
- Community service
- Independent study
- Online course
- Internships
- Performing groups
- Private instruction

ELO at Laconia High School

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Students demonstrate competency of the knowledge and skills through four areas:

- Research
- Reflection
- Product
- Presentation

The ELO Experience at Laconia High School

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- Students develop ELO competencies, benchmarks, and outcomes with a teacher and/or community partner
- Community partner is identified
- Student progress is monitored through weekly reflections by both the community partner and teacher

The ELO Experience at Laconia High School

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- Student gives a presentation on their learning throughout the ELO experience
- Credit is awarded based on student demonstration of mastery

Development of ELOs at Laconia High School

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- 2007/2008: Initial development of structure and process for ELOs
- 2008/2009: Teacher stipends for overseeing ELOs
- 2009/2010: Site based ELO coordinator and teacher stipend reduced
- 2010/2011: ELO/remediation blocks imbedded into master schedule

ELO Student Participation Data

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- In 2007-2008: 23 students
- In 2008-2009: 57 students
- In 2009-2010: 120 students
- In 2010-2011: 202 students

Pittsfield Middle High School

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Pittsfield Middle High School

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- Supports continued development of personalization and student-centered learning in Pittsfield as a key element in long-term change
- Engages students in authentic learning and authentic assessment where engagement can be challenging

Pittsfield Middle High School

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- Is competency-based, enhancing the quality of the learning experience and providing accountability for demonstrating learning
- Provides teachers with long-term support and mentoring in development of instructional practice over the full term of the grant, five years

Pittsfield Middle High School

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Importance of participation in NETWORK for Pittsfield:

- Connects rural schools with each other to support collaboration and scaffolded learning in the change process
- Connects teachers in small rural schools, many of whom are otherwise isolated in their subject areas and courses taught
- Provides models and guidance from successful practitioners from the New York Consortium

Thank you

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Rural School and Community Trust

www.ruraledu.org

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