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Subject: An Exceptional LID Experience
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Importance: High

Good morning Colleague!

Our March 20 Learning Improvement Day this year is a very different design than our traditional LIDs. In the past several years, we have gathered centrally and offered an array of professional learning opportunities, including many sessions expertly led by our own staff. Moreover, we've carefully guarded the LID time, ensuring as much as possible, a singular focus on improving instructional practice.

This year we depart from that practice to address two extremely important topics well suited for collaboration at the local level:

1. Advancing equitable learning environments, and
2. Elevating school safety.

This approach honors the adage that professional learning is more likely *applied* at the local level if it is *practiced* at the local level, collaboratively, and among colleagues with whom you share students and a common experience every day.

Equity & Access (90 minutes)

It is my belief that when we value others for their uniqueness and differences, then we enhance the possibilities for our children and ourselves. -Lee Mun Wah

We enter this work with some basic common understandings:

1. Diversity in our schools is an essential asset and represents a vibrant opportunity for educators to connect to their communities in meaningful ways.
2. Racial, cultural, and socioeconomic differences are real – and they make a difference in learning outcomes for students.
3. Educators must develop new competencies and instructional strategies to successfully engage our changing student populations. (Howard, 2007)

Principals will lead this session using local data, opportunities, and challenges as discussion platforms. Principals are called to lead this work in schools not only on March 20, but every day. They lead by “*creating equitable learning opportunities, motivating participants to take advantage of these opportunities to learn new ways to reach students*” (Knapp, et al, 2003; principal criterion 2). The principle outcome for this part of the LID will be to identify and advance culturally-relevant best practices to close achievement and opportunity gaps.

School Community Safety (180 minutes)

We enter this work with some basic common understandings:

1. Physical safety is a fundamental student need and a prerequisite to all learning.
2. When physical safety is threatened, we must be prepared to respond quickly and appropriately. Lives may depend upon our response.

During this segment of Friday's LID time schools will identify opportunities to improve their understanding of emergency preparedness and response best practices. To support this exercise, more than 50 community first-responders, law enforcement officers, FEMA and emergency planning experts will fan out across our 26 schools on a rotating schedule. As a result of the training on this day, school teams will:

1. Increase readiness and preparation to respond to emergencies and incidents that threaten the safety of students and staff;
2. Understand what an Incident Command Structure is, the roles of first responders, and what staff might do during a school emergency;
3. Learn how to leverage social media and texting during emergencies (Spoiler alert: yes, *we do* want you and students to use these tools!).

What you will experience on Friday is the result of a dedicated team of school staff and community partners meeting and planning over many months to ensure these emergency simulations are meaningful and responsive in the local context. The maps and many of the props you will be using were provided by law enforcement and emergency management agencies of the city of Everett. These agencies believe in the importance of Friday's work and have been invaluable partners in the planning process. As you work with them, please thank them for their service to our community, and for helping make our schools safer and more secure places for our students and our staff.

Thank you in advance for your participation and engagement

These experiences on March 20 will not be the end of our work in these two areas. Rather, they will serve as touch points for future investments. I am extraordinarily grateful to all involved, and am looking forward to learning from you about the day, and about how we can continue to build on what we learn and experience.

Warmest regards,

Gary



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