

I realize that it is now time for me to move forward with my life. Therefore, I will be retiring effective June 30, 2017.

It has been a privilege and a blessing to have had the opportunity to spend 44 years working with all facets of the education community. There is not a more noble profession which I could have chosen to spend a career.

It has indeed been a pleasure to serve the citizens of the Northern Panhandle and allow me to always be a part of a winning team. In each of my assignments, the team working with me has been comprised of exceptional and dedicated educators and service personnel who truly and genuinely care about the students they serve. They have always given of themselves to make the schools better each day in spite of the multitude of difficult societal problems they face. I know that the RESA-6 staff has assisted you in translating your vision into reality and together have accomplished much to make the future brighter for the students and educators you serve.

I commend the State Board of Education and the RESA-6 Regional Council for their never yielding support for continuous improvement. Your high expectations coupled with the RESA-6 competent and motivated staff has resulted in many successes and victories for the students served.

I am sincerely grateful for your tremendous leadership, cooperation, commitment and passion for excellence. These qualities have been a driving force in the RESA-6 effort for a better and brighter tomorrow. Even with the recent years of insurmountable challenges, you have been unfaltering to those you serve. Please continue your quest for education excellence utilizing those energized and determined attributes you foster.

Thank you for providing much of the glitter that has made RESA-6 a shining star and for allowing me to be a part of it. You have made my life richer and easier because of your vision, cooperation, hard work and foresight. Thank you for giving so generously of yourselves to improve the quality of education for all.

My 44 years are filled with many successes and a few failures, laughter and tears, comforts and hardships, pleasure and pain; but those elements are part of the complexity that makes being a leader so interesting and rewarding!

My two hopes are that I have left each of the positions I have served better than I found them and that I was able to give more than I took. I do know that I have always given it my best shot.

Thank you all for your many acts of kindness to me and my staff and for believing in my leadership skills and trusting me to lead RESA-6 for fifteen years. It has been a pleasure to serve you. Knowing you and working with you will always be one of the great highlights and honors of my life.

I wish only the best for each of as you carry on the tradition of Excellence in our Northern Panhandle schools. I promise that I will do all that I can to assist in the transition of the RESA-6 Executive Director's office.

Sincerely,
Nick P. Zervos
Executive Director, RESA-6



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Nick P. Zervos



Leaders of Learning Schools (LOLS)

Trainer of Trainers (TOTs)

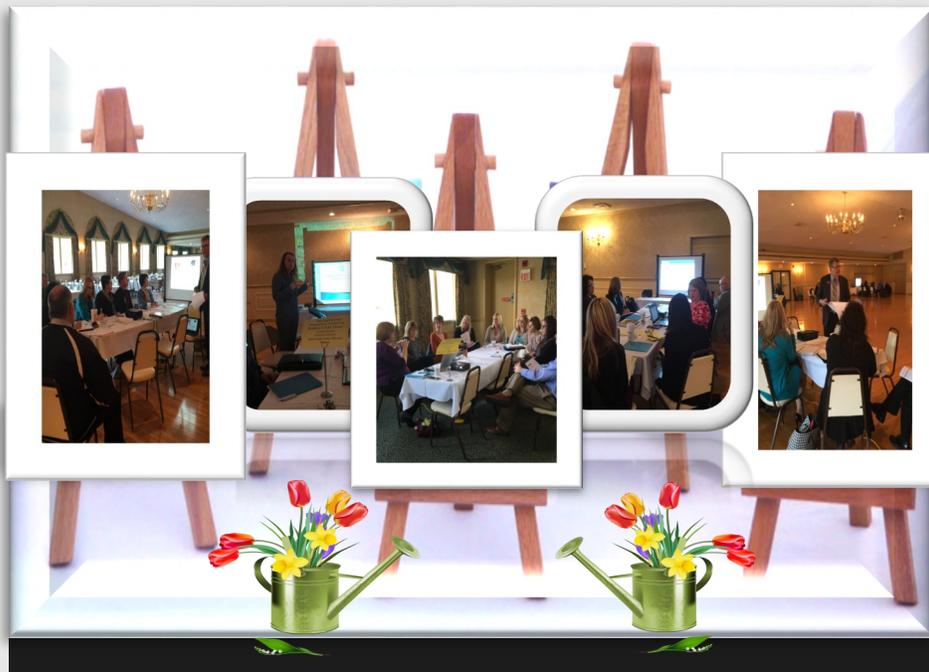


As the school year is wrapping up, so are the Leader of Learning Schools (LOLS) Trainer of Trainers (TOTs) for our region. Each county has schools represented at every programmatic level: elementary, middle, and high school. They are having a successful year as they continue to enhance their respective school environment, to promote Professional Learning. Along with the training, sessions include sharing best practices, data and research, and collaborative communities. They are building relationships and resources, creating a professional network based on the Professional Learning Standards which are:

- Learning Communities
- Leadership
- Resources
- Data
- Learning Designs
- Implementations
- Outcomes



All schools in our region will take the Standards Assessment Survey (SAI II) in the spring to assess their needs with the Professional Learning Standards and plan for the 2017-18 school year. RESA 6 continues to support our schools in our region with the needs of their individual schools as they set goals and design their own professional learning.



**Brooke County:
Brooke High School**



**Hancock County:
Weir High School
Oak Glen High School (Not Pictured)**

On February 10, 2017, ten RESA 6 high schools were recognized for achieving exemplary graduation rates of 90 percent or greater during the 2015-16 school year at a ceremony held at the State Capitol. Those schools are: Brooke High School, 93.19%; Weir High School, 90.48%; Oak Glen High School, 92.17%; Cameron High School, 97.22%; John Marshall High School, 91.52%; Wheeling Park High School, 97.83%; Paden City High School, 100%; Valley High School, 96.36%; Magnolia High School, 94.21%; and Hundred High School, 91.67%.
Congratulations for all of your hard work and dedication!



**Spring 2017 Principal Regional Institute (PRI)
March 22 & 23, 2017
The White Palace—Wheeling Park**

Spring 2017 Principal Regional Institute (PRI) was attended by Administrators from all counties. We opened the day with a review of Wellness Resources available with Caryn Puskarich, RESA 6 Wellness Coordinator. Joe King, Director of Florence Crittenton, presented information about children who have experienced trauma situations. He reviewed the episodes many children encounter and offered suggestions on how to work with these children in school settings.

Professional Learning for you by you (PL You) format followed with participants choosing three areas of interest. The PL You Sessions included:

- *Joe King*, Director Florence Crittenton
- *Melody Osborne filling in for Claudia Raymer*, Executive Director, Ohio County Family Resource Network
- *Jill Eddy*, Director of Community Based Services, Youth Services System Inc.
- *Amy Gamble*, Executive Director NAMI Greater Wheeling, WV
- *Morris West*, Thinking Maps
- *Susan O'Brien*, Director, Office of Education Performance Audits
- *Patricia Hammer*, Coordinator, Research and Evaluation, WVDE
- *Teresa Hammond*, Assistant Director, Office of Early Learning, WVDE
- *Doug Cipoletti*, Coordinator, Office of CTE Innovations, Perkins and Technical Support, WVDE
- *Caryn Puskarich*, Wellness Coordinator RESA-6

The afternoon featured a presentation by Attorney *William Ihlenfeld*, Bailey & Glasser, LLP, sharing strategies to prepare "A Comprehensive Drug Prevention Strategy: Why Every School System Needs One."

The day concluded with an acknowledgement and a presentation of an Achievement Plaque to the Leaders of Learning Schools (LOLS) Trainers of Trainers (TOTs) Schools:

Hancock County:

New Manchester Elementary, Weirton Elementary, Weir High School, Oak Glen High School

Brooke County:

Colliers Primary, Jefferson Primary, Brooke High School, Follansbee Middle School

Ohio County:

Wheeling Park High School, Steenrod Elementary, Triadelphia Middle School, Elm Grove Elementary

Marshall County:

Moundsville Middle School, Sherrard Middle School, Center McMechen Elementary, Central Elementary

Wetzel County:

Paden City Elementary, New Martinsville School, Hundred High School



Action Research Projects



Bright Spots for Early Literacy

Schools participating in the Early Literacy Initiative as part of the Campaign for Grade Level Reading have been busy all year doing activities in their schools. Following are the most recent projects.

Brooke County is participating in the **1,000 Books before Kindergarten** program which is a nationwide challenge that encourages parents to regularly read aloud to their children. Parents are invited to the Brooke County Library and the Follansbee Branch to participate in this free program.

Ohio County: Steenrod Elementary kicked off the **One School, One Book** project by leaving clues around the school to pique student interest as to what book they were getting. The book each student received was **Stewart Little!** Madison Elementary is planning to initiate the program "Secret Stories" developed by Katie Garner. *"The SECRET STORIES® is a multi-modal, brain-based teaching 'bag-of-tricks' that transforms the reading and writing abilities of primary and struggling, intermediate grade learners."*

Wetzel County Elementary Schools planned "Make and Take" for students in grades PreK-3. Parents were invited to join their children at school for a half day to make fun learning tools for helping teach their children at home. Short Line has created two "Little Lending Libraries" at two parks in their district. These "libraries" are filled with books for children to take for free.

Foundations for Early Literacy is off to a great start with many activities planned for next school year!

RESA 6 has supported the teachers of the region in earning WVU Graduate Credit through Action Research Projects (formerly known as Book studies) during the 2016-2017 school year. First Semester included two classes in two schools incorporating the strategies from The Daily Five and Mindset: Psychology of Success. Sixteen teachers in the two schools participated and integrated the strategies specific to the books into classroom daily practices.

WVU's second semester has ten Action Research Projects (ARPs) in fourteen schools with 176 teachers participating. The ARPs include individual schools incorporating a book, several schools integrating technology into classrooms, a county which offered a weekend venue with the ARP continuing through the second semester, and a leadership book encouraging teacher leadership supporting Policy 5500: Learning Schools Process.

ARP Graduate Credit may be used in renewing a teaching certificate or adding plus 15, plus 30 or plus 45 hours for a salary bump. RESA 6 schools customize the ARPs to their needs and have been a very relevant, successful way to integrate into classrooms, the latest research based strategies to increase student achievement.

The schools participating with Action Research Projects (ARPs) include:

- Hancock County Schools
- Weir HS
- Brooke HS
- Ohio County Schools Teacher Leaders
- Triadelphia MS
- Warwood School
- Ritchie Elementary
- Bridge Street MS
- Sherrard MS
- Washington Lands Elementary
- Center McMechen Elementary
- Central Elementary
- Moundsville MS
- New Martinsville



Kindergarten: Trainer of Trainers (K-TOTs)

RESA 6 has been able to extend the funding for the Kindergarten Trainer of Trainers (K-TOTs) for the last four years. They have been meeting on a regular basis since the Spring of 2014. The purpose of this group has been to build trainer capacity for an early childhood reporting proficiency & support system targeting kindergarten through regional collaboration. It began with the West Virginia Department of Education introducing the Early Learning Recording System (ELRS) - Evidence of Learning and extended into an opportunity for county and school dialogue with participants. Each county has developed and shared their plans specifically for their needs, as well as strategies and processes, successes and challenges. Presentations and reflections tools have modeled teaching strategies for participant engagement for teachers to use in their classrooms. The K-TOTs have enhanced the collaboration among the counties in our region at the kindergarten level.

Youth Mental Health First Aid

Adult Education instructors and DHHR Case Workers from the RESA 6 region gathered for a training in Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) on April 5, 2017. Kim McConaughy, Director of Adult Education for RESA 6, coordinated the event.

YMHFA is an 8-hour public education program which introduces participants to the unique factors and warning signs of mental health problems, builds an understanding of the importance of early intervention, and teaches individuals how to help an individual experiencing a mental health challenge.

Caryn Puskarich, Regional Wellness Specialist and YMHFA Trainer, opened the session with the following statement, "Just as CPR helps you assist an individual having a heart attack, YMHFA helps you assist an individual experiencing a mental health or substance use-related crisis as a first responder." Youth Mental Health First Aid provides an overview of mental health and substance abuse challenges for youth and provides a 5-step action plan to assist participants to help individuals in non-crisis and crisis situations.

For more information about how to receive certification contact Caryn Puskarich at 304-231-3816 or cpuskari@k12.wv.us.





Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports

RESA 6 had the privilege of hosting a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Academy, January 24-26th. Thirteen school teams from across the region participated in this three-day event. PBIS is aligned with Policy

4373 Expected Behavior in Safe and Supportive Schools, Policy 2322 Standards for High Quality Schools 3.1 WVDE Strategic Plan Goal 2: Improve Safe and Supportive School Environments which meet the physical, social, emotional and academic needs of every child. PBIS establishes behavioral supports needed for academic and social successes for all students by utilizing a collection of intervention strategies and organizational systems. PBIS is implemented in a three-tiered fidelity system and is based on a model of prevention from public health. The fidelity system provides a valid, reliable, and efficient measurement that can be used over time to guide implementation as well as sustainability of the PBIS program.

PBIS utilizes a team based approach. A strong team is crucial in implementing and sustaining a school-wide PBIS. Members must be enthusiastic, motivated and possess a variety of skills that will contribute to the effectiveness of the team. As each school and community is different, the PBIS framework will assist teams in developing a program that is right for their school. In addition to the team, data collection is also a key component in developing a successful PBIS program. Data will assist in the implementation of PBIS, guiding your school's next steps in the action plan.

Ultimately, PBIS is a framework to assist schools in determining what type of learning environment they want and what that means in terms of student behavior. Schools that have implemented PBIS have reported a decrease in the number of office discipline referrals, suspensions and an increase in academic achievement. PBIS, when implemented successfully, gives teachers more time to teach, students more time to learn and administrators more time to run the school.



Graduation 20/20 News

Hancock County students, from elementary to high school, participated in a week full of graduation events focused on graduation awareness. The graduating class of 2029, kindergarten students from Weirton Elementary, visited Weir High School on Monday, March 27, 2017 to explore what it's like to be a high school student and to "leave their mark." The kindergarten students visited several classrooms, spoke to current high school students and left their handprints/name on the wall which will remain until after they graduate in 2029.

The schedule of week-long events was geared toward getting students and the community excited about graduation. Graduation rates in both Hancock County high schools are above the 90% mark, Weir High School at 90.48% and Oak Glen High School at 92.17%, but they continue to strive to increase those rates. The county is encouraging community businesses to get involved and ask students and parents about school.

If you are visiting Hancock County you will be greeted with billboards promoting graduation, "When I See Graduation, I See You." Great job!



Students at Wheeling Middle are receiving motivation to graduate high school as the halls are adorned with banners saying, "Wildcats Always Graduate High School." Wheeling Middle staff have been busy this year promoting graduation, increasing parent engagement and focusing on attendance. Some of the activities hosted by Wheeling Middle include: speakers from the community talking about their careers, West Liberty University STEM activity event and Canvas and Cookies. In addition, Wheeling Middle plans to assist students with getting to school every day, on time, by purchasing alarm clocks. Keep up the good work!

RESA 6

Adding Value

An Irreplaceable Resource for Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall & Wetzel Counties

State Legislated Funding for general operations of \$367,940 or 8% of total revenue

- State Grants for regional initiatives or pro-grams of \$804,618 or 17% of revenue
- Federal Grants for regional initiatives or programs of \$880,158 or 18% of revenue
- County and local Reimbursement for vital educational services of \$2,741,329 or 57% of revenue

>>> For every dollar the State Legislature invests in RESA 6 core operations: Private, State, Federal and County entities invest an additional \$12 to take advantage of regional services; this equates into a 1202% return on Legislated dollars invested at RESA 6.

Cost Avoidance



- Medicaid Billing > Past Two Years: \$5.2M reimbursed to Counties
 - Cooperative Purchasing > Last Year: \$6.0M purchased and \$527,000 saved by Counties
 - Shared Personnel and Services > Last Year: \$700,000 saved by Counties
 - One right-sized Regional Administration to house and support 13 vital Regional Education Programs, which avoids counties duplicating efforts
- >>>> RESA 6 provides tangible savings through Shared Services and Cooperative Purchasing, and by housing and operating vital programs utilized by the schools and community at the regional economies of scale.



Public Service Training

Public Service Training (PST) is alive and well. We are looking forward to the future and are committed to providing quality training for Fire Fighters, Law Enforcement and EMS providers in the State of West Virginia.

In the Northern Panhandle we have two live fire training facilities. The Traylor Training Center is located at the north end of Wheeling Island. The Weirton Training Center is located on Rt. 2 next to the County Fire Station at the north end of Weirton.



Weirton Training Center



Traylor Training Center

The training options for these two facilities are limitless. The following is a list of some of the training options: live fire attack, hose evolutions, ladder evolutions, pump operator scenarios, law enforcement tactical operation scenarios, confined space operations, search and rescue, ventilation, high angle rope rescue operations, forcible entry techniques and rapid intervention team scenarios.



The newest enhancement to EMS training is the addition of a SimMan ALS mannequin. This training prop is available to be used in any EMS training class. It is designed to strengthen skills: airway management, breathing assessment, palpation and auscultation, fluid resuscitation, ECG interpretation, defibrillation, ultrasound assessment and diagnosis. SimMan ALS will build competencies and prepare for real-life emergencies. From pre-hospital, on scene assessment and management to definitive care in a hospital, SimMan ALS can fulfill the unique training requirements of emergency healthcare providers. SimMan ALS can help make the simulation more clinically relevant to a wide range of healthcare disciplines. Currently PST has EMT classes running in Hancock, Ohio and

Wetzel Counties. A Rescue Core/Rope Rescue Level 1 class at Cameron VFD and an online Fire Fighter 1 and 2 class with students from Tyler, Wetzel, Marshall, Ohio, Brooke and Hancock Counties. This class will conclude with the students completing their live fire training component at the Traylor Training Center in June. We are also providing Blood Borne Pathogen training for nursing students at Wheeling Park High School.

Looking toward the future PST has partnered with Weirton Medical Center, Valley Grove VFD, Bethlehem VFD, Folsom VFD and Moundsville City FD to offer monthly continuing education training for all levels of EMS certification. There will be a Fire Fighter 2 class at Bethany VFD starting May 9, 2017. Rescue Core/Rope Rescue Level 1 at Folsom VFD starting April 2017. Preparations are underway for the Marshall County Fire School in September 2017 and the Upper Ohio Valley Fire and Rescue School will be held in October 2017. The annual EMT class at Wheeling FD will begin in September 2017.

Check your station's bulletin board for PST flyers announcing dates and times for upcoming classes or call the PST Office at 304-231-3815.