

DRAFT

Charge to the English/Language Arts Work Group

The purpose of this work group is to review content and instructional practice between Kindergarten and Grade Eight and based on its findings recommend actions that will establish coherence, articulation and consistency in the teaching of reading, writing, speaking and listening. The Board of Education has expressed particular interest in reading across the disciplines, grammar, spelling, handwriting, frequency of student writing and instructor feedback and public speaking.

Members of the ELA Work Group are asked to:

- Describe current practice throughout the target grades, noting areas of consistency and inconsistency among schools and between grades
- Assess alignment of existing curriculum with New York Standards and identify areas that need attention to achieve alignment
- Based on findings, and identifying best practice recommended in current research, establish grade-level expectations in terms of what students will need to know and be expected to do in reading, writing, speaking and listening
- Assess present commitments to professional development in ELA and recommend where assistance is needed by teachers to meet student expectations
- Establish deadlines and define responsibilities in meeting this charge, identifying budget requirements in a timely manner

Membership of the ELA Work Group will consist of the present Committee on Language Arts, along with several parents yet to be named by the District PTSA and others as needed in the judgment of the Co-chairpersons, Linda Hatfield and Doreen Saccomano. It is assumed that this curriculum initiative will take two school years to complete, with two progress reports presented to the Board of Education in 2005-06

September 18, 2005

Gordon A. Bruno