



FAITH'S FRIDAY FLASH

NORTH GA GLRS

VOL. 1, ISSUE 13

APRIL 4, 2008

FOCUS: ACTION PLANS

The end of this school year is quickly coming to a close and I am sure all of your schools are involved in Spring Testing and planning for the upcoming year. Between testing and Spring break, I know that it has been difficult to bring teams together to plan. However, I have spoken with many of you via phone and email over the last week and there seems to be a real feeling of excitement and accomplishment as your Action Plans take shape and can actually see "where you are headed."

In addition, I have traveled this week and had the pleasure of meeting

with many of you and your teams as well as visiting in some of your schools. I continue to be amazed at some of the wonderful ideas that I am hearing and the commitment of the teams. As one team member said, "now we are getting to the fun part; actually putting some of our ideas into action!"

By April 15th, I would like for each Coach to submit their updated Action Plans. That will give me a day to review prior to the April 16th Illuminate Session. I have had several folks already volunteer to share; please let me know if you would be willing to share your plan.

Please keep in mind Dr. Bost's suggestions as you continue to refine your Action Plans:

Make sure that:

- There is clarity/specificity.
- Measurement (data) equals your interventions you plan to implement.
- There is a match between your strategies and activities.
- Who is responsible/your point person for activities?
- Your plan has told your story.
- **See more regarding Action Plans on page 2.**



April 15, 2008-Action Plan due to Faith (Submit electronically just for review)

April 16-, 2008 Illuminate Session (2:00-3:00) Action Plan Sharing

April 22-23, 2008 Coaches training in Cleveland, GA. (Apr. 22 @10:00; Apr. 23 @8:30)

MAY 1, 2008-FINAL ACTION PLAN DUE

The website for coaches can be found at www.pioneerresa.org. Please check frequently; we are continuously adding updates as we listen to your suggestions

NOTE!

Based on your Action Plan there may well be others at your schools that will need to be involved in summer trainings. Please be sure to include them as you plan!



I have been asked to share crucial information with the Collaboration Coaches regarding Summer Academies/PBS Training.

The GaDOE Special Education Department has a PBS unit; Ginny O'Connell serves as the Program Manager. In order to maximize resources and help align training with our developed Action Plans, the SPDG Graduation Project will work in concert with Ginny's unit. When a team selects PBS, there are several commitments involved. The procedure for teams is as follows:

- A specialist from Ginny's PBS unit will contact the school's principal to request and schedule a visit to the schools that have indicated an interest in the Summer PBS training. The specialist will meet with the Principal to answer any questions regarding PBS and to discuss the summer training.
- We are requesting that Coaches contact Principals to let them know that the PBS specialist will be contacting them in order to arrange the visit. Hopefully, you will be able to sit in on this meeting.

I have continued to receive emails regarding action plans and often I forward them on to receive additional input and suggestions.

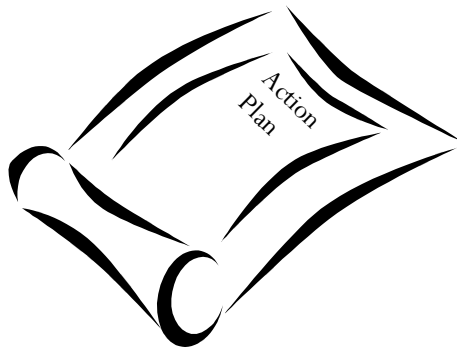
Lynne Williams gave this answer as the discussion continued regarding alignment of Action Plans and School Improvement Plan. I asked her permission (thank you, Lynne) to share her excellent response:

Some teams want to take the extra step of aligning the activities in their plan with the school's existing school improvement plans. Taking the step to "fit" the activities in your plan into the framework of your district's plan may make it more workable. When Dr. Bost talked about 'contextualizing' a plan, she was talking about making the strategies work at your school, matching it to what is already going on in the school.

You might look for ways to combine your plans' activities with other activities that are already happening.

For example, could the meetings needed to implement your plan be combined with meetings the graduation coach has with leadership staff? You don't want to have two meetings when one will do. It's much easier to work from one overall aligned plan than from multiple plans. If your team is ready to do that kind of work, it could be very helpful.

But, if your team is still working hard to get a solid workable action plan in place, it probably won't be a priority to align it with the other improvement plans. Consider it only if it makes sense for your team.



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APRIL 22 & 23

Upcoming will be the Content Enhancement training on April 22 and 23 at Pioneer RESA in Cleveland. Kathy Gast will be the presenter. She is gearing her presentation to us, as Collaboration Coaches, knowing that we will not actually be implementing the strategies but will serve as support for those schools that may want to implement Content Enhancement strategies. She has asked that if you have access to any of your

CONTENT ENHANCEMENT TRAINING

schools content curriculum guides or unit plans to please bring those to the training sessions.

Remember that we agreed to begin on April 22 at 10:00 and April 23 at 8:30.



Laura Brown introducing presenter Kathy Gast at Kansas Strategies Training.