

# Cooperative Connection

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Southeast Service Cooperative

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## Surveying the Math scene...

Area teachers examining snapshot of curriculum and instruction

Triton staff analyze data  
about their curriculum,  
instruction, and student  
achievement in a Data  
Retreat at SSC.



by Suzanne Riley

Three area school districts are partnering with Southeast Service Cooperative, the Minnesota Department of Education, and other schools across the state to analyze their K-12 math curriculum and instruction.

**Randolph, Kenyon-Wanamingo, and Faribault School Districts** are checking out their current (enacted) curriculum and compare it with the new Minnesota Academic Standards in Math. Their analysis will inform planning of enhanced professional and curriculum development.

Through a grant from the National Governor's Association, these and thirteen other school districts will use the Surveys of Enacted Curriculum (SEC) and a Data Retreat to inform instruction in their

mathematics classrooms. The pilot districts will be able to closely analyze their curriculum to ensure that it is well-aligned to the new Minnesota Academic Standards in Mathematics and will identify the areas needing increased attention as educators prepare students for success in the classroom and on the MCA-IIs.

Grant funds are covering almost all of the costs for the school districts to participate in the SEC and the Data Retreat. The SEC will help them to quickly identify gaps in K-12 math curriculum and instruction and engage teachers in objective dialogue about what and how they teach.

In the Data Retreat experience, teams of teachers and administrators will use the SEC results with other program, perception, demographic, and

achievement data to develop action plans for improvement in mathematics education. Trained facilitators will assist the leadership teams at the Data Retreats to help participants understand their results, interpret the data, and prepare an action plan to collaboratively address the identified needs in the school and the district.

In addition to using the survey results in a Data Retreat context, participating teachers have immediate access to their own data to compare to the state academic standards and school administrators have access to aggregate data for their sites, which can be used for ongoing improvement planning. Reports can be generated online and are available in multiple formats.

(Page 2 for more  
information)

## Surveys in Science and Reading/Language Arts available, too!



by Suzanne Riley

The Surveys of Enacted Curriculum is a research-based, online tool with which teachers and administrators can identify and visually display the content taught, time on topic, cognitive demand levels, and

the instructional approaches used in classrooms and across grade levels. The SEC also collects data about teacher and school characteristics and professional development experiences.

Minnesota school districts can use the SEC in analysis and planning of Math, Science, and Reading/Language Arts curriculum and instruction.

Information collected is non-evaluative and will be analyzed at statewide K-12 Math Data Retreats in which the leadership team from each participating pilot district learns how to:

- Refine curriculum to align it with state standards.
- Evaluate the articulation of curricula across grades.

- Identify areas of need for professional development.
- Reflect the cognitive levels of current instruction
- Evaluate coverage of Minnesota Standards in materials.
- Monitor changes in instructional practice and the effects.
- Encourage collaboration among all teachers and leaders.
- Engage teachers in dialogue about what and how they teach.

To learn more about the Surveys of Enacted Curriculum, visit [www.ssc.coop/sec](http://www.ssc.coop/sec)

Contact any of these SSC staff to help you get started with the SEC and/or a Data Retreat:

Amy Grover at [agrover@ssc.coop](mailto:agrover@ssc.coop)

Diane Schwinghammer at

[dschwinghammer@ssc.coop](mailto:dschwinghammer@ssc.coop)

Heidi Knepper at [hknepper@ssc.coop](mailto:hknepper@ssc.coop)

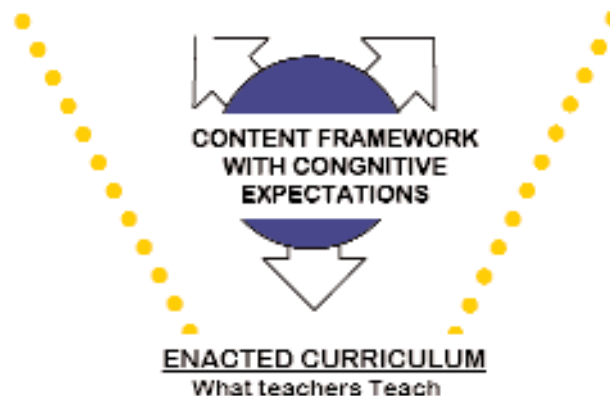
The surveys were developed by THE Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the Wisconsin Center for Education Research (WCER), with professional development support from Learning Point Associates (LPA).

### INTENDED CURRICULUM

What students should learn  
(state content standards)

### ASSESSED CURRICULUM

What students actually learn  
(state and other assessments)



## Tribute to My "Tuesday Tips" Mom *Eileen Kronebusch*

by Amy Grover

Every Tuesday, I would anxiously await an email from Eileen Kronebusch with the subject line "Tuesday Tips." Several months ago, after a long discussion about the future of education, Eileen added me to her list of recipients, which otherwise included her son and daughter. These motivational messages came from Dr. Alan Zimmerman, who always had timely and poignant advice. Each email was signed "Hope this makes a difference in your day ... from your Tuesday Tips Mom." I miss those emails.

Their absence reminds me every Tuesday to remember the woman who had such a huge impact in my life.

Eileen was an amazing woman, one whom I considered my mentor. She made a difference in the lives of all who knew her ... thousands of students, fellow community members, colleagues, friends, and family. I was blessed to know Eileen both professionally and personally. At the professional level, I will remember her



deep compassion and dedication, her ability to give so much of herself, and her continuing desire to learn and grow. Her energy and willingness to embrace change and improvement gave me ongoing inspiration. On a personal level, I will remember her gentle and applicable advice, the laughter and tears that her stories evoked, and her unwavering support of my own goals and dreams. She set an example that I admired and tried to live up to.

In a recent Tuesday Tips, Dr. Alan Zimmerman said "Attitude is the fuel that drives the car. In other words, you can buy the best, most expensive car in the world, but the car won't go very far without the proper fuel." On many days, Eileen was my fuel. My recollections of our conversations and work together will continue to keep my attitude on full, even when my energy is on empty. I hope that each of you holds on to similar special memories of Eileen.



If each of us were to strive to leave a footprint as deep Eileen's, we could change the world.

## H & S Online Training – Year Three – A Price Increase

by Dick Riley

Getting set to begin our third year of offering Health and Safety On-line Trainings through Clarity Net, more districts and government agencies have signed up. What started last year as a fledgling effort two years ago has now grown to be an important part of the training for our SSC member's staff.

Unfortunately like all good things, the price for the courses, which we have been able to maintain for the past two years, are set to rise March 1st with our new yearly contract with Clarity Net. It is still a very fair rate. Our new cost per is \$1.35 per training, up from 90 cents per course the past two

years. We are hopeful to maintain this rate for the next few years while under this new contract.

**However, SSC Members still enjoy a significant discount! Your cost without this rate on any course would have been \$1.89/per course.**

Southeast Service Cooperative's base rate (\$150) and per person rate ( 50 cents) will remain the same at least through June 30, 2008 when our Board sets our new budget figures.

This past year as well as the first year, over 1,200 courses have been utilized by our members. By far our three most popular offerings are: Bloodborne Pathogens for School

Employees; Hazcom for Schools; the Right to Know; and Sexual Harassment: You Make The Call.

Schools and Counties currently using our On-line H & S Training are: Austin Catholic Schools, Austin Public Schools, Cannon Falls Public Schools, Dodge County, Dover-Eyota Schools, Fillmore Central Public Schools, Kingsland Public Schools, Northfield Public Schools and St. Mary's Catholic School in Owatonna.

Contact Dick Riley at SSC for more information, a course list and costs to obtain this service from SSC and Clarity Net. 07-281-6666 / driley@ssc.coop

# Young Authors Young Artists Conference



Wednesday, May 21  
and  
Thursday, May 22

at RCTC Heintz Center  
Rochester, MN

Each year, over 800 students in grades 4-6 from public and private schools across southeast Minnesota descend on the Rochester Community and Technical College campus for an exciting opportunity to learn and work with professional authors, poets, playwrights, composers, lyricists, illustrators, novelists, journalists, book crafters, and others.

The Young Authors, Young Artists Conference promotes student engagement in the areas of written and visual communication, and is often an out-of-classroom experience that students remember for an entire lifetime.

This year, the conference is being held on May 21 and May 22. Session topics range from character development to comic book creation to book arts to watercolor artwork to storytelling.

Presenters this year are a mix of new and old (as in returning for another year). We welcome back Jill Weese from Minnesota Book Arts, Blake Hoena, Dianne Gray, Bev Jackson, Mary McGrath, Jim Postier, Char Auge, Terri DeGezelle, Gwennyth Swain, Loretta Ellsworth, Katie McKy, James Schattauer, Linda Back McKay, Jane St. Anthony, and Judy Hollister.

We also look forward to getting to know our new presenters, including Kevin Strauss, Stacy Lewis, Margie Kiefer, Sandy Humphrey, and Daved Driscoll.

We are also pleased to welcome back The Book Shelf in Winona, who will be

organizing our book sale for the second year in a row. They will have a wide selection of reading material for students to purchase, including books published by our distinguished presenters. In addition, the Rochester Theater Improv Group will be entertaining students during their lunch break.

All schools in southeast Minnesota are invited to bring a group of 4-6th graders to the conference for an experience unlike any other.

To download a copy of the 2008 Conference brochure, please visit the SSC website at [www.ssc.coop](http://www.ssc.coop). To request a hard copy of the brochure or with any questions, please contact Amy Grover at 507-281-6693 or via email at [agrover@ssc.coop](mailto:agrover@ssc.coop).



Southeast Service Cooperative's  
**Young Authors, Young Artists**



# Teaching American History Seminars

In a world that is rapidly changing due to advances in technology and the connectivity of our planet through digital resources, it seems that our children face a tremendous task to remain current with their peers, not to mention the demands this places on our teachers.

Thanks to the Teaching American History grant from the U.S. Dept of Education, 31 history/social studies teachers in southern Minnesota attended the "Exploring Digital Resources for Your History Classroom" seminar, and were exposed to a myriad of online resources available to them. Using SSC's wireless lab, each teacher was given the opportunity to access web resources for the classroom throughout the day.

Jen Cadwell, Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) Outreach Educator, introduced several of MHS's online resources that can be traced back to the 1850's. These include: Tales of the Territory which covers Minnesota's territorial period from 1849-1858; the Minnesota 150 project, that highlights 150 people, places and events that have shaped or reflect what Minnesota is; and True North, a brand-new web resource that allows users to study and layer historical and geographical maps while also providing ready-made lessons integrating history and geography.

Other MHS resources that were introduced include the Photo & Art Database, a database comprised of nearly 200,000 digitalized images from the MHS collections and Minnesota Place Names, the Thesaurus for the MN Digital Library that allows students to search the history and meaning of the state's counties, towns, cities and bodies of water. The MHS site also includes digitalized and "zoomified" images of paintings that can be incorporated into classroom lessons.



**Jen Cadwell introduces teachers to MHS's comprehensive online resources reflecting the time period up to the 1850's.**

Marian Rengel, Outreach Coordinator for the Minnesota Digital Library Coalition, introduced the Minnesota Reflections Project. Considered a fantastic resource for teachers, the site currently has over 20,000 objects, including photographs, stereographs, postcards, art work, handwritten journals, letters, documents, and maps. The site can be browsed by topic, region, and/or collection. Special teacher support is provided on this continually expanding site.

Rengel unveiled a prototype project created for the Minnesota Digital Library using the "Minnesota Reflections" collection. Called the Pachyderm, this project is a new software tool for creating interactive learning objects.

Teachers were then grouped into similar grade levels to create a lesson plan, based upon a lesson plan template handout. The plan revolved around primary sources found in the MHS or MN Reflections online sources. The day culminated with the sharing of those completed plans.

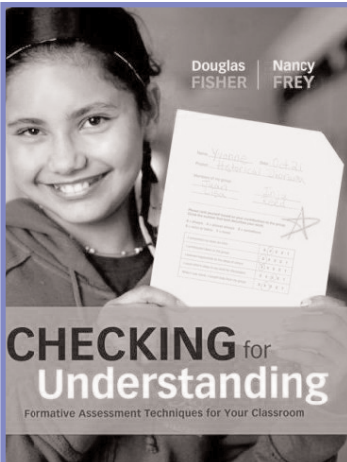
Teacher response was positive and many teachers stated that they would be able to immediately implement into their classroom both the lesson plan his or her group had created and the interactive sites and digital resources knowledge they had gained.

For more information about this project contact Kari Kubicek at 507.281.6668 or [kkubicek@ssc.coop](mailto:kkubicek@ssc.coop).

**Marian Rengel demonstrates the fantastic Minnesota Reflections project from the Minnesota Digital Library**



## Book Review: Checking For Understanding Formative Assessment Techniques for Your Classroom



by Heidi Knepper

This book highlights the importance of formative, or ongoing, assessment and its role in the teaching and learning process. The research and rationale for formative assessment are clearly presented in each chapter. The authors offer a large selection of practical and proven methods for diagnosing students' prior knowledge and preconceptions prior to instruction and for regularly monitoring their learning along the way. Each chapter included addresses simple yet very important strategies that teachers may add to their tool belts that will help them monitor the understanding and show evidence of learning for individual students on a regular basis.

The purpose of my review of this book is to hopefully whet the appetites and kindle the interest of our Southeast Service Cooperative members and that many will want to use this book for PLC or other school teams. This is also a must read for every principal who desires to become an outstanding learning leader in their school. This is a user-friendly book that I found relevant and appropriate for our current focus on school improvement, as well as for any

school and/or district looking for practical methods of assessing learning throughout the cycle of a unit of instruction.

Hopefully you will find this book helpful in checking for each student's understanding as you engage them in lessons that require them to think and problem solve in all areas of your curriculum.

Each of the seven chapters provides techniques on how to use formative assessments in the classroom. The book looks at learning from the student's point of view.

1. Why Check for Understanding?
2. Using Oral Language to Check for Understanding
3. Using Questions to Check for Understanding
4. Using Writing to Check for Understanding
5. Using Projects and Performances to Check for Understanding
6. Using Tests to Check for Understanding
7. Using Common Assessments and Consensus Scoring to Check for Understanding

## Meet Southeast Service Cooperative's Newest Board Members



### Susan Phillips

21 year veteran employee of Freeborn County. Currently responsible for Human Resources and Risk Management. She has also been a board member for the Hollandale Heritage Society and past president for the local Humane Society.

### Carol Cravath

Retired teacher and current Plainview-Elgin-Millville Community School Board Member. Carol is very active with her church as well as serving on the Wabasha County DAC Board.



## Recent Board Actions

### November 2007

- Approved revised fees for the Wood Lake Meeting Center.
- Accepted and approved a two-year grant contract with the Minnesota Department of Education for years two and three of the AYP-School Improvement program.
- Hired Chris Hancock in the position of part time Accounting Assistant.
- Passed a resolution requesting to change the joint powers name of eight Service Cooperatives from MRSA (Minnesota Regional Service Agency) to MSC (Minnesota Service Cooperatives).

### December 2007

- Accepted Board elections report. Marcia Ward reported: four Education Member terms - **Carol Cravath** (two-year term 2009), **Tom Heise** (three-year term 2010), **Mitch Lentz** (three-year term 2010), and **Mark Packard** (three-year term 2010). New Government Member term - **Susan Phillips** (three-year term 2010).
- Adjusted the SSC mileage reimbursement rate to 50.5 cents per mile pursuant to SSC policy to align with IRS suggested rates.
- Authorized the Executive Director to execute a master agreement with SelectAccount for VEBA and FSA administration and the related adoption agreement for members.

- Ratified the October 2007 clarifications made to the Health Pool Rules and Guidelines. Thanked Al Cordes for his work with the health insurance pool.

### January 2008

- Accepted the resignation of Bryan Tornow from the SSC Board of Directors.
- Appointed Don Andring for one year per ByLaws to fill vacant term.
- Elected Officers for 2008: Mitch Lentz-Board Chair, Mark Packard-Vice-Chair, Al Cordes-Clerk, Tom Heise-Treasurer.
- Chair Lentz appointed Board Members to the following Committees:

**Finance Committee:** Mitch Lentz, Mark Packard, Tom Heise, Don Andring, Al Cordes.

**Personnel Committee:** Mitch Lentz, Al Cordes, Mark Packard. The Administrative Advisory Committee will be invited to nominate an AAC member to serve on this committee.

**Policies Committee:** Elizabeth Lawson, Mike Hammes, Carol Cravath, Marcia Ward.

**By-Laws Committee:** Elizabeth Lawson, Marcia Ward, Sue Phillips, Mike Hammes.

- Established monthly meeting dates, time, and place as the fourth Wednesday each month at 5:30 PM (Finance Committee meets at 5:00 PM) at SSC, with exceptions in some months. Board meeting dates will be published in the Cooperative Connections.

Wednesday, February 27  
Wednesday, March 26  
Wednesday, April 23  
Wednesday, May 28  
Wednesday, June 25  
Wednesday, July 30  
Wednesday, August 27  
Monday, September 29  
Wednesday, October 22  
Wednesday, November 19  
Monday, December 29

- Designated the Cooperative Connection and the SSC website [www.ssc.coop](http://www.ssc.coop) as SSC communication media and the Rochester Post Bulletin as the official legal notice posting; encourage members to publish Southeast Service Cooperative Board actions as a part of their individual Board minutes. Executive Director Report.
- Suzanne Riley gave an oral summary of the Administrators Advisory Committee January meeting. She highlighted information regarding the grant project E2T2. Accept a grant contract with Minnesota Department of Education to coordinate a statewide Math pilot project with the Surveys of Enacted Curriculum and Data Retreats.
- Approved an adjustment to the contract with School Management Services consulting services of Bill Colopoulos for increased time.

For more information about SSC Board meetings, you can read them on the SSC website at [www.ssc.coop](http://www.ssc.coop) under the Board of Directors link.



## EmbodyHealth – Now Free for SSC Health Pool Members



**Not a member of the SSC Health Insurance Pool?**

**You can still access EmbodyHealth for a rate of \$5.98 per employee per year! All of the services and features, including the confidential health risk assessment, are included in this affordable fee.**

SSC Insurance Pool member organizations are invited to take advantage of an exciting opportunity! SSC is entering its third year with Mayo Clinic Health Management Resources to provide our member organizations the EmbodyHealth online resource at a reduced rate.

Beginning April 1, 2008, SSC will provide all SSC Insurance Pool member organizations this same Mayo Clinic EmbodyHealth online resource at absolutely NO COST through June 30, 2009.

The EmbodyHealth online program continues to provide individuals the most current health information, tailored to their interests, including the following:

- Up-to-date feature articles from Mayo Clinic health experts.
- Ask a Specialist with a growing library of questions and answers from Mayo Clinic experts.
- A Symptom Checker to pinpoint possible causes of your medical symptoms.
- Search tool to locate health information quickly.
- Navigation bar with links to:  
Monitor My Health  
Improve Lifestyle Habits  
Manage Chronic Conditions  
Make Treatment Decisions  
Connect with Others  
Health Info A to Z.

- Interactive Health content such as:  
275 Videos  
80 Slide shows  
40 Quizzes  
7 Calculators  
10 Self-assessments
- News designed for SSC member organizations.
- Specific news topics tailored to the individual based on their interests when they register.

### VERY IMPORTANT FEATURE

If you are a registered user of EmbodyHealth, you have access to HRA, Health Risk Assessment tool, free. The HRA is a survey tool that gives you a personalized look at your health and behaviors. Upon completion of the survey, you can view and print your Personal Health Report, an online summary of your health risks and strengths that you can print out if you like. This will also allow you to view strategies and resources for reducing your risks and maintaining your strengths. Once you complete the HRA, the website is personalized based on your results. And, there is more: Other members of the household over age 18 can also take the health risk assessment and access the features at NO additional cost!

Individual personal health summaries are never made available to others. NO ONE can access your personal information except you. Employers will see only aggregate reports guaranteed to protect privacy, and to do this there must be at least 50 surveys taken by

your group. To assist your group might use aggregate data in planning health promotion activities.

Along with access to the online program, we will also provide your wellness coordinator with the EmbodyHealth Starter Kit which will aid in the promotion of EmbodyHealth. Included in this kit are: promotion cards to give to those eligible for the EmbodyHealth program, promotion messages, HRA Communications and Newsletter Templates, EmbodyHealth Brochure for New Employees, a list of website topics that may be promoted to your employees by month, and a CD containing additional templates for promoting the EmbodyHealth portal and the HRA.

Do not miss out on this tremendous opportunity! If your organization were to offer this service independently, it would cost your group \$30,000 per year. SSC is paying the fee on behalf of its health insurance pool members, so there is no reason not to take advantage of this fantastic resource to make health promotion a priority for your organization!

EmbodyHealth sign up agreements are available at [www.ssc.coop](http://www.ssc.coop) under Insurance Services, Wellness Programs.

For more information or to talk about how you might implement EmbodyHealth in your organization as a foundation of a health promotion program, contact Kari Kubicek at [kkubicek@ssc.coop](mailto:kkubicek@ssc.coop), phone 507.281.6668.



# Does Health Insurance Plan Design Matter?

by Bill Colopoulos

Plan design impacts the health of groups in very meaningful and measurable ways. Actively engaged consumers (such as those in our Coop VEBAs and HSAs plans) manage their health far better than their traditional health plan counterparts. The results of CDHPs\* show that improved health favorably impacts the health risk profile (and future premium costs) of their group.

1. 50% of CDHP members are more likely to demonstrate health care cost-consciousness than their traditional low deductible health plan counterparts.
2. 33% of CDHP members are more likely to independently seek treatment alternatives – even when their out-of-pocket benefit plan maximums have been met.
3. CDHP members are three times more likely to choose a more cost-effective treatment alternative; especially when they have chronic conditions.
4. CDHP members are twice as likely to inquire about drug costs and generic alternatives.
5. CDHP members are far more likely to engage in healthy behaviors:

20% are more likely to participate in wellness programs.

30% are more likely to get an annual check-up.

20% are more compliant with prescribed treatment programs.

plan participants who had been enrolled in a consumer health plan for at least one year. Note: the survey group consisted of full replacement HRA plans, meaning all risk was managed within the context of the above survey. The control group was a like-sized sample of traditional, low deductible PPO plans.

**Pharmacy's Critical Role in Consumer Healthcare Plans**  
Pharmacy benefits are a critical factor in healthcare consumerism:

- Consumers use pharmacies 7 times more frequently than any other kind of health care service, including doctor's office visits.
- Pharmacy therapy compliance is the "low hanging fruit" cornerstone of the more effective disease management programs.
- Consumer pharmacy utilization patterns are strong indicators of imminent and future health care needs; demand for specialized medical information and productivity management services, such as rehabilitation and early-return-to-work programs.



- Pharmacy price information is readily available and easily accessed by consumers.

Pharmacy out-of-pocket expenses are most relevant to consumer budgets and their personal VEBA-funded HRA or HSA accounts.

Consumerism's challenge: is all health care necessary?

According to the Center for Disease Control, there are strong indications that much of our prescribed healthcare is not necessary, used properly or used at all. CDHP plan participants have the incentive – and are using the proper tools to find out.

In 2005, U.S. adults received recommended health care for the 30 most common illnesses only 55% of the time.

1. Overall, adults failed to receive recommended care 46% of the time.
2. Adults received potentially harmful care that was not recommended 11% of the time.
3. 25% of all prescribed (and purchased) medications were not consumed (that's about \$75 billion in drug waste alone).
4. Results for the above were the same for insured as well as uninsured populations.
5. 70% of total expenses incurred were for conditions that were preventable.
6. \$160 billion spent on smoking-related health care treatments and procedures.

(about 1/3rd of our entire defense budget)

Source: CDC, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2006

## AYP/School Improvement Staff Development date



By Diane Schwinghammer

Professional Development is the cornerstone of school improvement. It is essential that professional development efforts are aligned with school improvement plans, centered on student learning goals, and will thrive within the school's operation and structures. (Loucks-Horsley, 2000)

However, we often expect dramatic changes after attending one workshop, one conference, or read one book, without examining the personal investment we need to make in order for changes to occur.

As stated by Rasmussen, Hopkins and Firzpatrick, "Like a perfectly pitched curve ball ...it is the thought, effort and hours of planning and practice that produce successful results." We can ask ourselves, prior to embarking on the journey of professional development, "What is my commitment? What planning needs to occur? How will I be supported?"

The school and district also have an obligation to ask reflective questions, such as:

- How will the school and district support long-term, focused professional development through policies, schedules and other areas of operation?
- How will we build systems thinking in order sustain school improvement efforts?
- How do we support the employees' efforts with time and resources?
- Do we develop a culture of inquiry within the district/school?

- Do we ask the question, "What do you need in order to improve student learning?"

Susan Loucks-Horsley suggests that the following questions can guide successful professional development planning:

- What are our goals for our students?
- What must we (the adults) learn in order to help our students learn?
- What is the best design for the adult learning?
- What is in place in our school that we would need to change or strengthen in order to meet our learning goals and our student goals?
- How would we know if we were achieving our goals?

Perhaps two quotes are appropriate, one from Yogi Berra, "If you don't know where you're going, you'll likely end up someplace else." And another from the famous "anonymous", "If we do not change our direction we are likely to end up where we are headed."

The AYP Coordinators reviewed the 20 District and School Improvement Plans and designed staff development opportunities based on the needs expressed through these plans. The workshops offered in 2008 were designed to provide teachers with theory, modeling and practice, qualities of high quality professional development.

Many of these teacher learning opportunities are available to all SSC members. For more information contact us!

Diane Schwinghammer  
dschwinghammer@ssc.coop  
507.281.6683

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## Lifetime Library ~ Math, Reading, Writing

In 2006, we introduced many of you to the Lifetime Library, an excellent supplemental multimedia Internet-based learning program that helps students remediate or freshen their basic skills in math, reading, writing and algebra. Some of you participated in a pilot program, and others are considering the Library for their students.

When we introduced the Lifetime Library to Service Coop members, Lifetime Learning provided an introductory pricing program that offered Coop members a deep discount from the Library's normal license fees. Specifically, Coop members are able to acquire an annual Lifetime Library site license for **\$595 (plus training)** – permitting you to create and assign an **unlimited** number of student User ID's. This represents a savings of \$2,705.00 or 82% off the list price. With the introduction of a new release of the Library, we can't continue the introductory price program past April 30, 2008. **There is still time to take advantage of this outstanding pricing program.**

Effective May 1, 2008 the new list price of the Lifetime Library will be \$3,495.00. This pricing will reflect the introduction of an updated management system incorporating great new features. Service Coop members will continue to receive a discounted price from Lifetime Learning with prices starting at \$2,750 ... with additional discounts for multi-year programs and special prices for schools with limited students. This represents a savings of 21%.

### 3-year Savings Opportunity

The current Coop pricing for an annual subscription for the Lifetime Library will expire on April 30, 2008. As an additional incentive, Lifetime Learning will extend the current special pricing for three-year commitments – making your investment only \$1,785 (plus training) for a three-year site license. We will include an upgrade to the new Management System when it is officially released. You will save thousands of dollars when compared to our regular single year site license of \$3,495.

**NOW** is the time to take advantage of your current pricing plan and lock in use of the

Library for 3 years. We have helped thousands of young adults – from high school students, individuals in Community Colleges and Technical schools, the U.S. Army, Charter and Alternative schools as well as those already in the workforce seeking to advance in their careers. There is still time left to help your students prepare for end-of-year standards testing, include the Lifetime Library in your summer program strategies and prepare for the fall school season!

For more information contact: Steve Sborov, National Sales Manager at [sales@lifetimelibrary.com](mailto:sales@lifetimelibrary.com) or 612-600-8301.

To receive this special pricing you must place your order through Southeast Service Cooperative. You can send your purchase order to:

Southeast Service Cooperative;  
Attention: Dale Walston  
[dwalston@ssc.coop](mailto:dwalston@ssc.coop)  
Fax 507-288-7663  
Phone 507-281-6675

## MNTAAB Provides Cost-Effective Cash-Flow Borrowing

In 1993, the Minnesota School Boards Association, in cooperation with the regional service cooperatives, created the Minnesota Tax and Aid Anticipation Bonds (MNTAAB) statewide cash-flow borrowing pool. The idea was to provide a cost-effective and administrative friendly alternative to stand-alone cash-flow borrowing.

The program was designed to create economies of scale for Minnesota school districts and result in a lower AIC (All Inclusive Costs) for cash flow borrowing. MNTAAB has been successful in keeping up-front costs reasonable and by selling competitively in the bond market with a large, pooled issue. This strategy has resulted in districts paying lower interest rates.

In a recent survey, Minnesota superintendents and business managers rated their experience with the MNTAAB cash-flow borrowing pool. Over 92% rated

their overall experience with the pool at Excellent or Above Average. The top three reasons for their participation in the MNTAAB pool included:

- Lower Interest Rates
- Lower Issuance Costs
- Ease of Administration

MSBA and the Service Cooperatives are proud of their MNTAAB sponsorship benefiting Minnesota school districts.

The pool has demonstrated over time that most school districts have been able to borrow less to achieve their net cash-flow target, pay lower interest costs on the debt, realize a lower net cost per day for cash-flow borrowing, and process the transaction with less administrative time. The MNTAAB pool also provides a convenient Guaranteed Investment Contract (GIC) option, which is 100% collateralized, convenient and safe. When you are planning for cash flow borrowing in 2008, remember that focusing on issuance costs

alone tells only part of the story. When you calculate the All Inclusive Costs (AIC) of the transaction, MNTAAB has consistently been the best value for cash flow borrowing for the vast majority of Minnesota school districts.

Springsted Clients representatives from are prepared to assist school clients to execute individual cash flow borrowing transactions in circumstances that make that option more desirable.

For more information about the MNTAAB statewide cash-flow borrowing pool or other cash flow borrowing needs, please contact one of the following client representatives at Springsted.

DeeDee Kahring at [dkahring@springsted.com](mailto:dkahring@springsted.com)  
Don Lifo at [dlifo@springsted.com](mailto:dlifo@springsted.com)  
Jim Schmitt at [jschmitt@springsted.com](mailto:jschmitt@springsted.com)



## Junior High Knowledge Bowl teams earn top places



### Tier A 1st Place: Goodhue 1

Front (left to right)  
Carolyn Johnson, Michelle  
Poncelet, Meta Stern,  
Back: Ann Heppelman  
(advisor) Matt Loewen, Jon  
Schmitz, Anne Lodermeier,  
Dawn Austin (advisor).



This year, 52 teams from 19 districts participated in Junior High Knowledge Bowl. Teams competed in Round Robin competitions in October, November and December. Each team then competed in the Sub-Regional competitions in January and the top nine teams from each tier advanced to the Regional competition.

The Junior High Knowledge Bowl Sub-Regional Competitions were held on January 15, 16, 21 and 22. The Tier AA Sub-Regional teams (number of teams) were from: Chosen Valley (3), Dover-Eyota (4), Kasson-Mantorville (2), Kenyon-Wanamingo (3), Pine Island (4), Plainview-Elgin-Millville (4) Red Wing (1), Winona (1). The Tier A Sub-Regional teams were from: Caledonia (1), Fillmore Central (4), Goodhue (2), Grand Meadow (1), Houston (3), Kingsland (4), Lanesboro (3), Mabel-Canton (2), Rushford-Peterson (3), Southland (1), Spring Grove (3).

The Junior High Knowledge Bowl Regional competitions were held on January 31 and February 1 (after being rescheduled due to weather) at the Southeast Service Cooperative. The competition consisted of 1 written round (60 questions) and 4 oral rounds (45 questions/round).

The Minnesota Service Cooperative Knowledge Bowl competitions are interdisciplinary academic contests for students. Junior High Knowledge Bowl is for students in grades 6-9. During

the contest, teams of students compete in written and oral rounds by answering questions related to all areas of learning, typical of secondary educational programs. Questions test students' recall, problem solving, and critical thinking skills. This competition provides a format for student growth centered around academics. Teams consist of six students (six competing in the written round and five competing in each oral round).

### Tier A-Top 9 Teams that Advanced to Regional Meet on February 1

**Goodhue 1 - 1st Place**  
**Kingsland 4- 2nd Place**  
**Houston 1 - 3rd Place**  
**Grand Meadow - 4th Place**  
**(tied for 3rd)**  
**Fillmore Central 1 - 5th Place**  
Rushford-Peterson 1  
Spring Grove 2  
Houston 2  
Rushford-Peterson 2

### Tier AA-Top 9 Teams that Advanced to Regional Meet on January 31

**Chatfield 1 - 1st Place**  
**Pine Island 3 - 2nd Place**  
**Winona - 3rd Place**  
**Dover-Eyota 1 - 4th Place**  
**Red Wing 1 - 5th Place**  
Kasson-Mantorville 1  
Pine Island 2  
Chatfield 2  
Dover-Eyota 2

## Top placing teams at regional event



### **Tier A 2nd Place: Kingsland 4**

Front (L to R): Mckayla Pruter, Lisa Early, Katie Roberts, Back: Devin Pokorney, Ashley Kappers,(advisor), Laura Gudmunson, Rachel Thompson.



### **Tier A 3rd Place: Grand Meadow (tie)**

Front (L to R) Karl Freese, Paul Johnson, Back: Brett Wilson, Steve Blomgren, Mitchell Gerber, Nancy Prigge (advisor). Not pictured Ethan Wylde.



### **Tier A 3rd Place Houston 1 (tie)**

Front (L to R) Kate Johnson, Renee Kinstier, Brenna Gustafson. Back: Ben David, Connor Caruso, Janell Beckman, Kiel Koehler (advisor).



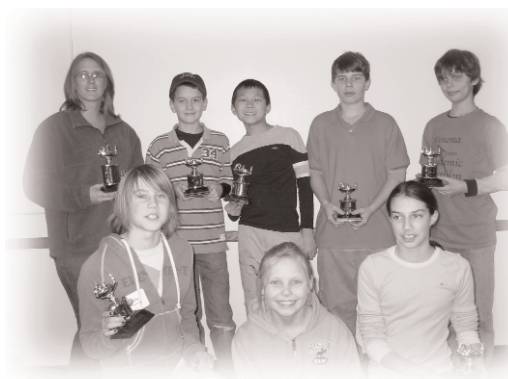
### **Tier AA 1st Place: Chatfield 1**

(L to R) Kevin Bren, Erik Hilgren, Jacob Pierce, Nathaniel Chase, Zach Bouska, and Shirley Lien (advisor).



### **Tier AA 2nd Place: Pine Island 3**

Front (L to R) Terri Swan and Janice Thompson (advisors) Hillary Heiling. Back: Ben Bogard, Joel Torgeson, Andrea Cragoe, Elise Manuson.



### **Tier AA 3rd Place: Winona**

Front (L to R) Emily Bartz, Anneliese Braaten, Raizi Campbell, Back: Dheadra Michael (advisor), Isiah Sorvaag, Jeremy Zhang, Kennedy Emerson, Sam Peterson.

## Spelling Bee winners advance to Multi-Regional Bee



On February 19, 2008, the Regional Spelling Bees for southeast Minnesota were held at the Southeast Service Cooperative in Rochester. Two separate events were held--one at 9:00 am and one at 1:00 pm. Larry Stacy from Stewartville Public Schools served as the pronouncer/moderator of the events.

A total of 74 students representing 42 districts competed in the two bees. These students participated in classroom, school, and district level contests to advance to the regional level.

The first and second place winners will be participating at the Forum

Place winners from both the morning and afternoon sessions include the following:



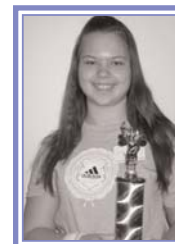
*First Place*  
**Riya Madan**  
Rochester Public



*First Place*  
**Catherine Cojocaru**  
Rochester Catholic



*Second Place*  
**Elizabeth Platz**  
Rochester Area  
Homeschoolers



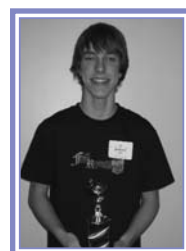
*Second Place*  
**Laura Galbus**  
Kasson  
Mantorville  
Public Schools



*Third Place*  
**Brendan Wilder**  
Rochester Public



*Third Place*  
**Benjamin Kubesh**  
Austin



*Fourth Place*  
**Jackson Fate**  
Triton



*Fourth Place*  
**Madie Hamilton**  
Lake City

Communications Multi-Region State Spelling Bee on March 11, 2008, at the Holiday Inn in St. Cloud. In addition, each first place winner received a \$200 savings bond and the second place winners received a \$100 savings bond. The third and

fourth place winners will serve as alternates.

The winner of the Multi-Region State Spelling Bee will advance to the Annual Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC, May 28-29, 2008.



# Calendar

## March

*Monday, March 3*

4:00-6:00 PM

**Intro to SMARTboard**

*Tuesday, March 4*

8:30 AM-2:30 PM

**Knowledge Bowl SR High Sub-Regionals**

*Wednesday, March 5*

7:00 AM-5:00 PM

**Gateway to Matery**

8:30 AM-2:30 PM

**Knowledge Bowl SR High Sub-Regionals**

*Thursday, March 6*

7:00 AM-5:00 PM

**Gateway to Mastery**

*Friday, March 7*

7:00 AM-5:00 PM

**Gateway to Mastery**

*Saturday, March 8*

9:00 AM-11:00 AM

**Legislative School Leadership Forum**

*Tuesday, March 11*

8:30 AM-2:30 PM

**Knowledge Bowl SR High Sub-Regionals**

*Wednesday, March 12*

8:30 AM-2:30 PM

**Knowledge Bowl SR High Sub-Regionals**

*Thursday, March 13*

9:00 AM-11:00 AM

**Area Expert Trainer Network Forum**

12:00-3:00

**AAC Meeting**

*Tuesday, March 18*

8:00 AM-3:30 PM

**Meeting MN Math Standards at the Middle and High School**

4:00 PM-6:00 PM

**SMARTboard Training**

*Wednesday, March 19*

8:30 AM-3:30 PM

**Meeting MN Math Standards in the Elementary School**

*Thursday, March 20*

8:30 AM-3:00 PM

**High Quality Teacher and Principal Leadership in High Schools**

*Wednesday, March 26*

5:00 PM-8:00 PM

**SSC Board Meeting**

## April

*Wednesday, April 2*

8:00 AM - 9:00 PM

**Freshwater Regional**

*Thursday, April 3*

2:00 PM-4:00 PM

**HVED Principal Meeting**

*Friday, April 4*

7:30 AM-9:00 AM

**SSC Hosts Chamber of Commerce AM**

**Espresso**

*Tuesday, April 8*

1:00 PM-4:00 PM

**HVED Superintendent Meeting**

*Thursday, April 10*

12:00 PM -3:00 PM

**AAC Meeting**

*Friday, April 11*

1:00 PM -4:00 PM

**HVED Principal Meeting**

*Wednesday, April 16*

8:00 AM-5:00 PM

**SMART board Training**

*Friday, April 18*

8:30 AM-3:00 PM

**Using Student Assessments**

*Monday, April 21*

8:30 AM-3:00 PM

**Part 2 Meeting MN Math Standards in Elementary School**

*Tuesday, April 22*

9:00 AM-3:30 PM

**Region 5**

*Wednesday, April 23*

5:00 PM -8:00 PM

**SSC Board Meeting**

*Thursday, April 24*

8:00 AM- 4:00 PM

**SCIOP Training**

*Monday, April 28*

8:00 AM- 3:30 PM

**Day 3 Meeting MN Math Standards in Elementary**

*Wednesday, April 30*

9:30 AM-12:00 PM

**School Pool Renewal**

## May

*Friday, May 2*

8:00 AM -4:30 PM

**Meeting MN Math Standards in the Elementary Classroom**

*Tuesday, May 6*

1:00 PM -4:00 PM

**HVED Superintendent Meeting**

*Wednesday, May 7*

8:00 AM -5:00 PM

**SMARTboard training**

*Thursday, May 8*

9:30 AM -12:00 PM

**AAC Meeting**

*Friday, May 9*

1:00 PM -4:00 PM

**HVED Principal Meeting**

*Tuesday, May 13*

8:00 AM -4:00 PM

**Meeting MN Math Standards in Middle and High School**

1:00 PM -4:00 PM

**HVED Superintendent Meeting**

*Wednesday, May 14*

8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

**MDE Teacher Leadership II**

*Thursday, May 15*

9:30 AM -12:00 PM

**Region V**

*Monday, May 19*

8:00 AM-4:00 PM

**Engaging Elementary Students in Developing Constructed Math Responses**

*Tuesday, May 21 & Wednesday, May 22*

RCTC Heintz Center 8:00 AM -4:30 PM

**Young Authors Conference**

*Wednesday, May 28*

5:00 PM-8:00 PM

**SSC Board Meeting**

The **Cooperative Connection** is a publication of the Southeast Service Cooperative, published four times per year and distributed to members, associates, and the general public by request.

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**To send a fax dial 507.288.7663.**

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