



District Needs Assessment and Evaluation Update

by Mary Kampa/CESA 11, CREATE H Coordinator

Districts are busy with many activities this time of the year, including participation in professional development activities related to the district's Annual Disproportionality Improvement Plan (ADIP), which was written or updated at the CREATE Pre-Conference Needs Assessment meeting held in Green Bay in April 2011.

At the Needs Assessment meeting, districts participated in a day-long review of the 23 "Rubrics" created by the National Center on Culturally Responsive Educational Systems (NCCRESt). Reviewing the Needs Assessment Rubrics guided district teams in the examination of district practices that may inadvertently lead to disproportionate referral, identification and placement of students who are culturally and linguistically diverse. Participating in the Rubric analysis provided district teams the opportunity to examine policies, procedures and practices in general and special education that have been shown to contribute to institutional factors that surround disproportionality. This process is designed to help State and Local Education Agencies address institutional and systems issues that may impact students from culturally and linguistically diverse populations who continue to experience a wide variety of achievement gaps.

Action directed at changing results should be grounded in a thoughtful assessment, and completing the District Needs Assessment Rubric is a thoughtful, evidence-based assessment. Decisions about whether a district is at "Beginning", "Developing", or "At Standard" level for each of the Rubrics are based on the district's review of actual evidence that support the district's rating of their progress within the specific Focus Area. Types of evidence include, but are not limited to, assessment and performance data, policies, practices, handbooks, curriculum, distribution of resources, analysis of disaggregated data.

The Needs Assessment Rubric assists districts in determining "priority" Focus Areas and guides the team in the development of their plan to address Focus Areas that are below standard. Activities and goals are developed, and this becomes the district's Annual District Improvement Plan (ADIP). Information on the Needs Assessment Rubric can be found at http://www.createwisconsin.net/districtpractices/assessment_evaluation.cfm.

A goal of the needs assessment project this year is to provide support to districts throughout the year to better support them in using the CREATE Needs Assessment website and tools (www.wisconsincreates.org) with the district's progress on their identified goals. From November to April, district personnel will be contacted to:

- a. Provide assistance on using the CREATE needs assessment website and on-line planning tools.
- b. Review completeness of district ADIP and evaluation of goals.
- c. Determine district needs for on-going and future professional development.
- d. Help districts prepare for the April 2012 Needs Assessment activities.

Jerianne Rosin, CESA 12, will be assisting Mary Kampa, Coordinator for the CREATE Needs Assessment/Evaluation project in contacting districts by phone and e-mail throughout the year. We look forward to working with each district individually this year. Please contact Mary Kampa at maryk@cesa11.k12.wi.us or 715-416-0609 should you have any questions.