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Directors Corner

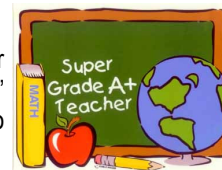
Welcome Back...

Once again summer has come and gone and we are back in school. New faces in your classes greet you. Some are truly excited to be back in school and some not. Some can't wait to show you their news clothes while some are excited just to be back in school because it is their safe place where they get a breakfast and a lunch everyday of the school week.

Once again you may be the most important adult in the life of one of your students. What a responsibility! Let us help as you look for resources and assistance as you provide the HOPE, OPPORTUNITY, and DIFFERENCE for your students.

We help you make a difference by providing you and your school corporation the following services: purchasing options that will make your dollars go farther; staff development opportunities that will enable teachers to be more responsive to student needs; distance-learning opportunities that will enhance student learning; a media library to give teachers additional tools to utilize in the classroom, and after school tutoring using the best local teachers for your most needy students.

Remember there are no plateaus in the career of a teacher. Oliver Cromwell said "He who stops being better; stops being good." Those of you that constantly strive to improve are indeed credits to your profession and should feel very proud of what you do.



Amy Leeson has replaced Jack Davis as our Professional Development Coordinator. She also serves in that capacity for Region 8 ESC. You will see her at our Professional Development activities. You can contact her at: aleeson@niesc.k12.in.us

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new superintendents:

Wayne Stubbs, Concord Community Schools
Daniel Ronk, Rochester Community Schools

Staff Development

Last spring, NIESC surveyed teachers and administrators to determine effective professional development that will meet our member schools needs. A total of 13 administrators and 331 teachers completed the survey in May 2011. We would like to thank all of you for providing the information we requested. Administrators and teachers indicated similar needs and we will be using this information to focus our professional development opportunities for the 2011-2012 school year. Topics are listed below:

Transition to Common Core State Standards

Driving instruction using Acuity and/or classroom data

Meeting the needs of high ability students

Using SmartBoards, Podcasts, and social media in the classroom

Critical skills for 21st Century learners

Participating in a "Technology" fair

Professional Development

To see more information or to register for any of the listed workshops, click the blue registration link below each item. Since new workshops are added regularly, see the current list on our event registration website: events.niesc.k12.in.us

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| <p>Sep 7: <i>Indiana Transition to Common Core Standards</i> (In partnership with IDOE & The Curriculum Institute)
Register: www.curriculuminstitute.org/indiana</p> <p>Sep 14: <i>Preparing for the English 10 ECA</i>
Register: events.niesc.k12.in.us?info=54</p> <p>Sep 19: <i>Using Literature to Teach Health</i> (IDOE)
Register: www.doe.in.gov/hiv aids</p> <p>Sep 23: <i>Dr. Mike Schmoker: "FOCUS: Elevating the Essentials to Radically Improve Student Learning"</i>
Register: events.niesc.k12.in.us?info=49</p> <p>Sep 29: <i>Preparing for Changes in Teacher Evaluation</i>
Register: events.niesc.k12.in.us?info=50</p> <p>Oct 4: <i>Lunch & Learn w/ Stages/Online Evaluating Tool</i>
Register: events.niesc.k12.in.us?info=55</p> <p>Oct 10: <i>90 Minute Reading Block</i>
Register: events.niesc.k12.in.us?info=59</p> | <p>Oct 17: <i>Health: Connect Learning and Health</i> (IDOE)
Register: www.doe.in.gov/hiv aids</p> <p>Oct 20: <i>Teacher Evaluation Follow up</i> (NC Study Council)
Register: registration details forthcoming</p> <p>Oct 24: <i>Common Core Common Sense (6 Steps to Incorporating CC in your Classroom)</i>
Register: events.niesc.k12.in.us?info=56</p> <p>Oct 28: <i>Grades 6-8: Math Common Core Standards and Problem Solving with Differentiation Preparing for ISTEP+</i>
Register: events.niesc.k12.in.us?info=57</p> <p>Nov 1: <i>Session II Transition to the Common Core</i>
Register: registration details forthcoming</p> <p>Nov 18: <i>Grades 3-5: Common Core Standards/Problem Solving with Differentiation Preparing for ISTEP+</i>
Register: events.niesc.k12.in.us?info=58</p> |
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Technology Services

The USAC E-Rate program provides substantial discounts on Internet and Telephone services for schools. Schools in our area average almost 70% discounts on these services.

Northern Indiana ESC is available to file for these discounts on behalf of your schools. If you are not taking advantage of the discounts currently or looking to outsource your filing process, contact Les Turner (lturner@niesc.k12.in.us) to schedule a free consultation.



Northern Indiana ESC operates a web-based portal that provides school delays and closing information to the media outlets and general public. School staff, parents, and students may sign-up for a free account at www.weareclosedtoday.com and receive text messages or emails when their school (or a nearby school) closes or delays.

If your school corporation is not using the We Are Closed System, contact Graham Pearson (gpearson@niesc.k12.in.us) to see how we can streamline your closing notifications.

We are planning for an Educational Technology Conference to be held in the Spring of 2012. Areas of focus will include STEM, handheld technologies, distance education opportunities, and software tools to engage your students. Look for a 'Call for Speakers' in the next few weeks, and conference details near the end of the year. If you have ideas for sessions you would like to see included, let us know...

We are looking to schedule the conference shortly after Spring Break.



The NIESC Technology staff are available to provide technology-related staff development. Specific training is available for most applications including Google Apps, Moodle, and Lego Robotics. Contact us if you have a specific need.

NIESC now provides backup services to schools. If you are looking for a secure, automated, system for protecting your valuable data, the NIESC Datavault is for you!

Our competitively priced service provides peace-of-mind knowing your data is safely backed up without the hassles of changing tapes or taking them home for offsite protection.

For more info or to sign-up for a trail account contact Les Turner: lturner@niesc.k12.in.us

NIESC DataVault Service



"You can't depend on your eyes
when your
imagination
is out
of focus."

SIGNCRAFTERS
Supporting Education with Inspiration

US Signcrafters, Inc. is teaming up with schools all over the country to "Rethink, Rekindle, and Reimage Education".

Motivate students and faculty with a variety of different creative displays. Banners, flags, dimensional lettering, awnings, and metal arches are just some of your options to choose from.

Inspirational quotes, school colors and logos can be displayed proudly just about anywhere with adhesive vinyl graphics.

Email paula@ussigncrafters.com to setup an appointment for a "Creative School Audit" and to request your free E-book with ideas to get you started.

US Signcrafters, Inc.—216 Lincolnway East—Osceola, IN 46561
Phone 574-674-5055—Fax 574-674-5255—www.ussigncrafters.com



Britannica Online School Edition: PreK-12th Grade

NIESC, partnering with Britannica Digital, brings you the award-winning **Britannica Online School Edition for PreK-12th grades**.

A favorite with educators, **Britannica School Edition** includes three levels of content for elementary, middle, and high school students and the **Britannica Learning Zone**-- a PreK-2 interactive learning environment.

Named **one of the 10 Best Digital Resources by School Library Journal**, Britannica offers three age-appropriate levels of content with differentiated reading levels and "Read Aloud" technology appealing to users of all abilities. Additional resources such as multi-media, atlases, timelines, current events, and personalized workspaces make **Britannica Online School Edition** a timesaving comprehensive resource.

Educators have quick, easy access to curricular area learning materials, lesson plans, and study guides: correlated to Common Core and Indiana state standards.

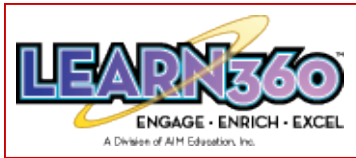
Britannica School Edition also easily integrates with Whiteboards, Moodle, and district learning management systems.

Pricing is just \$.50 per student (\$295.00 building minimum), with Free Training available for all subscribers.

For a quick **video overview** please visit: http://corporate.britannica.com/bolse/video/bolse_overview.wmv

For more information and a FREE TRIAL please contact: Diane Novak, Britannica Representative,
(800) 621-3900 ext:7176; dnovak@eb.com

Lisa Abell, Northern Indiana Education Center
(574) 254-0111; labell@niesc.k12.in.us



The 21st Century Classroom is Here...

Go to the Head of the Class: Bringing the 21st Century to your Students with Learn360

It's that time of year again! Back-to-school means back to the books and the **Learn360** Fall webinar schedule can serve as a professional development resource when preparing your lesson plans for 2011-12. The complimentary webinars are available to assist in bringing the 21st century into your classroom with multimedia integration, PowerPoint presentations, customized playlists, online learning tools and more. Here's how this 30-minute session can help:

Create a 21st-Century Multimedia Classroom using Learn360

Receive an introduction to the essential basics of Learn360 and find out how to best access and incorporate more than 73,000 multimedia resources into lesson plans to engage and enrich learning for your students. At the end of the webinar, the Learn360 presenter will lead a Q&A session where your specific questions will be addressed.

Sign up today!

<http://www.learn360.com/webinars.aspx>

- Tue, Sep 13, 2011: 4 p.m. EDT
- Tue, Sep 27, 2011: 12 p.m. EDT
- Tue, Oct 11, 2011: 4 p.m. EDT



NIESC has special negotiated pricing for Learn360. For just \$550 per building, you can turn your classrooms into Multimedia Classrooms. Contact Lisa Abell at NIESC for more information.



K12Indiana Procurement: Program Background

K12Indiana (www.k12indiana.com) is a unique partnership started in 2010 between the State Department of Administration and CIESC. The partnership allows the DOA and the Educational Service Centers to provide K-12 public schools access to consolidated purchasing contracts for a wide range of products and services that schools regularly purchase. The K12 Indiana system is online, convenient, and easy to use.

In the coming months, the State and Indiana Education Service Centers will be joining forces to expand our purchasing power through coordinated contracts. The combined purchase volume, together with the State's strategic sourcing resources and tools, will yield contracts that are aligned with the specific needs of Indiana's K12 community at even more competitive prices. Categories under consideration for State and K12 coordinated sourcing are carpet, office supplies, and school supplies.

K12Indiana provides browsing, pricing comparison, purchase order execution, demand aggregation and reporting with customization available based on the needs of each school (i.e., approval workflow down to the building or grade level). Today, more than 75 school corporations have active licenses.

There are currently more than 30 catalogs representing 14 different commodity and service categories in the system. The project team has worked diligently to align the system with State Board of Accounts rules and guidelines and is in the final phases of integration with the most commonly used K12 accounting systems including Komputrol, RDS and Skyward. The K12 project team continuously seeks feedback to enhance the system with the administrative purchasing and accounting function efficiencies in mind while maintaining system flexibility to accommodate and customize for school operations.

NIESC is joining forces with the CIESC and the state to promote K12Indiana as our preferred online procurement system. We will be offering webinars and training sessions during the 2011-2012 school year and a vendor fair on September 21st in Plymouth (see ad on page 5) highlighting the vendors and their products available on K12Indiana.

For more information on this system, or a personal demonstration, contact Lisa Abell labell@niesc.k12.in.us at NIESC.

Supplemental Educational Services (SES)

NIESC offers an after school tutoring program for schools required by NCLB to offer their students this alternative. Students completing our program have consistently improved ISTEP scores 6 to 10% higher than other SES students in Indiana. Our high growth students also range 2 to 16% higher than all non SES high growth students in Indiana. If your school needs to offer SES services this year please contact Jack Davis at jdavis@niesc.k12.in.us for more information.



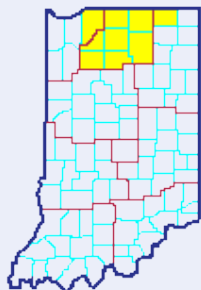
Our program hires only certified teachers to provide these services. Many times teachers within a school corporation are hired as tutors. In addition, we hire substitute teachers, retired teachers, or other certified teachers who do not have fulltime positions. Our groups typically range from four to six students, which results in a hourly rate of \$40 to \$50 for the tutor. If you or someone you know would be interested in tutoring please contact Jack Davis at jdavis@niesc.k12.in.us.

Distance Education (Views on Learning)

Interested in Video Conferencing collaborations? Views on Learning has partnered with schools in our area and across the country. VOL has deployed equipment to Fort Myers, FL, Lansing, MI, Fort Wayne, IN, Casper, WY, and Columbus, OH. Locally, Tippecanoe Valley, Baugo, Oregon Davis, Lakeland, Westview, and the Berrien County RESA have received video conferencing equipment. These schools are open to collaborating with other schools. If your school is interested in collaboration, please contact Jeff Gangloff at jgangloff@viewsonlearning.org and he will assist in the process.



A great site to visit and learn about potential video conferences is CILC, the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration. CILC lists virtual field trips, classroom collaborations, and shared classes from all 50 states and several foreign countries. Just go to <http://www.cilc.org/> to find out more and sign your school up for free!



Northern Indiana Educational Services Center

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Mishawaka, IN 46545

800-326-5642 (Toll Free)
574-254-0111 (Local)
574-254-0148 (Fax)

newslettereditor@niesc.k12.in.us (email)



2011-2012 NIESC MEMBER SCHOOLS

Argos Community Schools
Baugo Community Schools
Bremen Public Schools
Cass Township School
Caston School Corporation
Concord Community Schools
Crossroads Academy
Culver Community Schools
Dewey Township School
Eastern Pulaski Community Schools
Fairfield Community Schools
Goshen Community Schools
J.E.S.E.
John Glenn Community Schools
Knox Community Schools
Lakeland School Corporation
Michigan City Area Schools
Middlebury Community Schools

MSD of New Durham
New Prairie United School Corp
North Judson-San Pierre Schools
Oregon-Davis School Corporation
Plymouth Community Schools
Prairie Heights Community Schools
Rochester Community Schools
South Central Community Schools
Tippecanoe Valley Schools
Triton School Corporation
Union-North United School Corp
Veritas Academy
Views On Learning
Wa-Nee Community Schools
Wawasee Community Schools
West Central School Corporation
Westview Community Schools

2011-2012 NIESC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

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