

Programs and Committees

**Annual Report
2008-2009**

School Improvement Committee

The School Improvement Committee met nine times during the 2008-2009 school year. They supported the offering and evaluation of over 138 workshops and trainings offered within the district. (See the Professional Development section). They provided feedback on Professional Learning Communities and discussed training in the use of data and the implementation of a standards based reporting system. They studied information and discussed the substance and format involved in transforming student grading. They are currently working on a revision to the teacher evaluation document. In the next year they will continue this project as well as the changes in reporting of student learning scheduled for the 2009-2010 school year.

BEST

Each teacher new to the district and the profession is welcomed to the district during the two days prior to the opening of school. During this time they receive an overview of the district's procedures and curriculum. Each teacher is assigned a mentor. Individual meetings are held with the Principal and the mentor. Second year teachers had individual support in preparing their portfolios. This has included coordinator review of lessons and unit plans and critiquing of the portfolio. Teachers are supported on their reflections on student learning. Teachers visited the RESCS to review model portfolios. This provided comprehensive, in-depth professional development for each new teacher. District Facilitator's meetings were attended. Attempts have been made to connect BTs with their mentors as soon as possible in the fall. Picture directories of the staff have been used to help new teachers become a part of the school community. Nineteen teachers were in the BEST program during the 2008-2009 school year. An additional 11 teachers were new to the district.

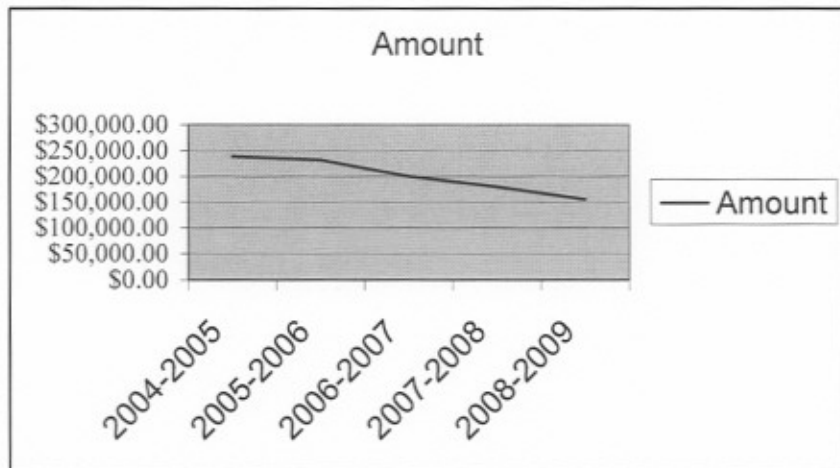
The BEST program is being discontinued as of July 1. A replacement program has yet to be developed.

Grants

Grants include the Elementary and Secondary Education Act - Title I Remedial Support, Title II Teacher Support, Title II Technology, Title IV Safe and Drug Free Schools, and Title V Innovative Education – and the Perkins Grant, Primary Mental Health, and Family Resource Center. Grant work was planned, grants were written, carried out, and budgets monitored and expended for each of these grants. Other grants were also written and bidder's conferences and planning sessions attended. Compliance reports were completed including Title I, Perkins, and ELL.

Grant opportunities have become less available to non-priority districts. Entitlement grants have decreased from \$239,000 in 2004-2005, \$232,000 in 2005-2006, \$200,000 in 2006-2007, \$179,347 in 2007-2008, and \$154,799 in 2008-2009.

Year	Amount
2004-2005	\$239,000.00
2005-2006	\$232,000.00
2006-2007	\$200,000.00
2007-2008	\$179,347.00
2008-2009	\$154,799.00



English Language Learner

Each district is required to have a separate program for students who are English Language Learners. Twenty-one English Language Learners (ELL) were tested, identified, and supported at Birch Grove, Tolland Intermediate School and the Middle School in the 2008-2009 school year. As part of the federal No Child Left Behind legislation this program has yearly progress requirements. Meetings were attended at EASTCONN to facilitate this program. Compliance reports were written.