

How To Stay Focused on Teaching and Learning in Tough Economic Times

May 12, 2010 (1A to 3A districts)

May 13, 2010 (4A districts)

As school leaders face difficult budget decisions,

focusing on teaching and learning is even more challenging.

This one-day workshop with Dr. Allan Odden, will offer strategies to assist in squeezing the most out of your education dollars. Dr. Odden is a professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Wisconsin, and co-director of the Consortium for Policy Research in Education–Wisconsin Center for Education Research. He is a nationally recognized expert in resource allocation and fiscal policy.

Where: Sheraton Hotel, West Des Moines

Times: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cost: \$50 per participant

Audience: Superintendents with board president and other board members, board secretary, business manager, person responsible for teaching and learning (curriculum director), principals

Register: Online at <http://www.sai-iowa.org/stayfocused/>. Registration deadline is noon, May 7, 2010. Space is limited, and registration is taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Cancellation notification must be received by noon, May 7, 2010, for a refund. Call 515-267-1115 to let us know if you're unable to attend.

Other: Participants are asked to come prepared with data in order to fully participate in the event. Please complete the document linked here for as many schools as desired: <http://www.sai-iowa.org/storage/datarequested.doc>.

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Area Education Agencies

Iowa ASCD

Iowa Association of School Boards

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Iowa Superintendents Finance and Leadership Consortium

School Administrators of Iowa

Urban Education Network

The Wallace Foundation



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Workshop Outcomes

1. Understanding of the key strategies needed to boost student learning and reduce the achievement gap, with the resource needs for each of those strategies.
2. Understanding of how current resources—people, time and money—can be reallocated to fund the strategies that boost student achievement.
3. Understanding the change process from going from the current context to a vision of the future, understanding that it might take three or more years, and knowing the basic steps that must be taken, beginning now, to move to that more effective future.
4. Understanding the online simulation model that can indicate for each school in the district how much of the more effective school model can be currently financed, initial ideas of what to pare from the full model to what can be afforded, and thoughts about the implementation process from moving from today to the future.
5. Review of a district model for simulating the ideas in point #4 for all schools in the district as a first step in both zero-based budgeting and rethinking change for all schools in the district.

Agenda

A. Overview of the Day

- a. Not balancing this year's budget
- b. No theory—all practical examples from other districts and schools
- c. Thinking outside the box—be open to new ideas

B. Presentation

- a. Strategies to improve student learning and reduce the achievement gap, including restructuring the work of teaching and learning
- b. Resource needs of those strategies
- c. Implementation process for restructuring schools—a 3-year plan
- d. Several actual examples of reallocating resources to finance new strategies to boost student learning
 - i. Instructional Coaches
 - ii. Professional development time
 - iii. Smaller class sizes
 - iv. Inclusion for both students with disabilities and ELL students
 - v. Changing the school schedule
 - vi. Comprehensive school designs

C. Small group discussions

- a. Pick one of the above areas, discuss the barriers in your school, district or Iowa for implementing that change, and identify ideas about how to deal with those barriers
- b. Report from the Group Discussions

D. Examples of Iowa Schools and how the online resource reallocation tool works—

- <<http://cpre.wceruw.org/finance/redesign/schoolinfo.asp>>
- a. Computer model for zero-based budgeting for an entire district

E. Next steps: How the sponsoring organizations will provide supports for this work

- a. What these organizations will do to help sustain the process of redesign, school restructuring and resource reallocation towards a more effective future