

Ruth Mattingley – June 2006

Ruth Mattingley, Senior Executive Officer, Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat

In this address, Ruth Mattingley restates and reaffirms the goal of the initiative, “Leading Student Achievement: Our Principal Purpose”. In turn, she explains the roles of the ‘Professional Learning Community’ and the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat in working towards the achievement of this goal. To conclude, she invites questions and suggestions for the Secretariat.

Contact:

For more information on the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat, visit www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/

Segments:

- 1...Introduction
- 2...Achieving the Literacy and Numeracy Initiative
- 3...Comments and Questions

1...Introduction

(Length: 15 minutes)

Synopsis:

Mattingley restates the case for the development of the Literacy and Numeracy initiative and reaffirms its goal to raise the bar on student achievement and lower the gap between lower and higher performers. She outlines how Professional learning communities have contributed to the movement toward achieving this goal.

Look for the following:

- Reasons for the initiative
- Goal of the initiative
- Attributes of a ‘Professional Learning Community’
- Importance of ‘equity’ in the initiative
- Culture created by an effective ‘Professional Learning Community’
- Percentage of improvement in student achievement by Ontario boards
- Questions to ask to assess progress and guide practice

After viewing Segment 1:

- What is the goal of the provincial Literacy and Numeracy initiative?
- Of the attributes associated with professional learning communities, which two are most crucial to achieving this goal? Explain.
- List the three most relevant questions that you should consider in order to reflect on your school’s progress towards achieving the goal of improvement in student Literacy and Numeracy. Then brainstorm responses to these three questions to determine an initial assessment of present practice. From here, determine future action required to build school capacity.

Sample Chart:

Relevant Questions	Possible Responses	Future Action

Digging Deeper:

DuFour, R. & Eaker, R. (1998) *Professional Learning Communities at Work: Best Practices for Enhancing Student Achievement*. Bloomington: National Education Service.

2...Achieving the Literacy and Numeracy Initiative

(Length: 10 minutes)

Synopsis:

Mattingley focuses on the role of the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat in moving schools forward toward raising the bar on student achievement and narrowing the gap between lower and higher achieving performers. She outlines the practices common in schools that have shown improvement in student achievement or that have demonstrated a high level of student achievement.

Look for the following:

- Priorities of the Secretariat
- The three phases of the work of the Secretariat
- 'Ontario Focus Intervention Partnership'
- Practices common in schools where improvement and/or high student achievement is evident
- Characteristics of effective leadership (applicable to both administrators and teachers)
- The reason underlying the urgency of maximizing student achievement

After viewing Segment 2:

- Of the practices common to schools which have demonstrated improvement and/or high student achievement, Mattingley emphasizes the importance of there being a common belief that all students can learn and that success is celebrated. Determine the extent to which your school demonstrates these two characteristics by providing specific examples to support your assessment. Next, outline steps your school can take to move forward in these two areas.

Sample Chart:

Demonstration of Common Belief that All Students Can Learn	Demonstration that Success is Celebrated	Steps to Move Forward

- Research what resources the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat provide that your school could access for assistance when improving practice.

Digging Deeper:

For more information visit the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat's online journal at www.inspirelearning.ca or Curriculum Services Canada at www.curriculum.org.

3...Comments and Questions

(Length: 9 minutes)

Synopsis:

This segment of Mattingley's presentation consists of her audience's response to her request for questions and suggestions for the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat. This segment provides some interesting clarification of information presented earlier in her address, and highlights the needs felt by those who have been involved in the initiative during 2005 – 2006.

Look for the following:

- Clarification of the 'Ontario Focus Intervention Partnership'
- Year 2 of the initiative
- Administrators' suggestions

After viewing Segment 3:

- Having listened to administrators from around Ontario, which of their comments had the most impact on you?
- What advice/suggestions/questions do you have to offer at this stage?