Documentation of AVATAR Technical Assistance Conversation

Participants: Kathy Wright-Chapman, ECS Region 11, and Mary Harris, AVATAR

Date: Thurs. Feb. 28, 2013 Time: 8:00-8:30 a.m.

Status of documentation:

1. Documentation has been received through December, 2012. Notes are needed from February 20, 2013 meeting. Also, please send PowerPoint and agenda for the meeting with FWISD administrators.

Topics discussed:

1. VAT 11a, the Fort Worth ISD/UNT team, presented to campus vice principals about the vertical alignment work. The work with chemistry is relevant as the district works to develop career academies. Representatives of Tarrant College are no longer active on the VAT although attending parts of meetings.
2. Fort Worth ISD has developed good resources to support college readiness and students’ making good decisions for the future.
3. ELA work of Hill College and Burleson ISD is continuing. This group has developed a set of local guidelines of alignment that will lead to dual credit courses. Texas Wesleyan is no longer active on this team. This group will continue to work next year. They are developing a joint website.
4. Meetings are planned for March 20 and April 20.
5. Kathy had attended a workshop with Damon Lopez of No Excuses University that offers strategies for universal achievement disseminated through Turn-around Schools Associates. Teaching practices they promote include
   1. Collaboration
   2. Classroom lessons aligned to academic standards
   3. Formative assessments that are embraced by teachers
   4. Data management
   5. Interventions, both academic and social
   6. Parent involvement