

## Standard 7: Commitment to Continuous Improvement

Standard: The school establishes, implements, and monitors a continuous process of improvement focusing on student performance.

The process for continuous improvement Sioux County Schools implements to enhance student performance and school effectiveness are reflected in the district's participation in the state's school improvement requirements. The Sioux County School staff examines standardized test results, and bases its focus for school improvement on data from these results. Our current continuous improvement plan is to develop student with proficient writing skills. A variety of baseline and material data, such as NWEA, NeSA, PSAT, and ACT, are utilized to illustrate the progress toward our school's goal. Teachers then implement a variety of instructional strategies to improve student writing.

The district reviews data from NWEA, NeSA, and the ACT to ensure that improvement goals reflect student learning. Writing is an area of concern due to its importance in the academic and business world and we strive to prepare our students for their future beyond Sioux County High School. A student's ability to communicate in writing impacts their success in all subject areas. Noting its importance, the staff chose to improve student writing.

Sioux County Schools uses a variety of processes to ensure school personnel are provided professional development opportunities. Through district wide meetings we communicate our improvement goals to all instructional personnel. A variety of curriculum resources and professional development for staff is communicated, gathered and implemented. Sioux County Schools developed a monitoring form which focuses on the following aspects of writing; Ideas/Content, Organization, Voice/ Word Choice, and Sentence Fluency/ Conventions with the intent of improving the writing skills of all students. The books, *On Writing Well* by William Zinser, *The Elements of Style* by William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White are staff resources. The administration keeps us abreast of recent developments in writing by sharing articles which will be useful in improving student writing. SOAR (Sharing Opportunities Achieving Results) is the professional development department at ESU#13. SOAR's focus is supporting schools and teachers to increase student success--by impacting implementation of proven strategies, processes and systems. The ESU has provides opportunities for curriculum development and strategies to improve student writing.

Based upon our testing results and anecdotal observations, this is working in our district.