

3/1/18 Westbrook Meeting - Audio Time Stamp: 20:33

Bernie Flynn – Sanford school department

Good evening, my name is Bernie Flynn and I am the director of curriculum for the Sanford school department. One of the recommendations that I would like to make to the state is that they develop K-12 standards for curriculum and instruction in social studies that is very similar to what North Carolina has done as far as the framework that they've set up. It's a standard course of study and what that is, that is just your basic framework, you still have local control over what you put in that framework. If you take a look at the essential standards that they include for social studies instruction, they also provide instructional support tools. In addition, they have social studies broken down into different grade levels, with specific courses for World History, American History I, American History II, an American History with Founding Principles, Civics, and Economics. There are also social studies electives. So if you look at how they have taken these standards and at every single grade level and in these specific courses, have unpacked the standards for the teachers where it specifically identifies what the students need to know and to be able to do and what they can garner from whatever it is they are teaching, but lets teachers still have the autonomy to approach it and teach it the way that they would like to teach it. So as one lady in the audience was saying, if a child is in the state of Maine and they are moving from place to place at least you know in the 6th grade that certain concepts are going to be taught regardless of where that child lands. I think in this particular state, that is very important. So that is something to take into consideration as you plan ahead. There are also, on this particular website with North Carolina, and I hope that people do go to it because it's a pretty solid and very easy to access website. They have social studies graphic organizers as well as things for students with second languages. I think that is also critical in our state even though we don't have a diverse population, that is something we need to consider.