From Computers to Competencies: Why We Canned the "Canned" Curriculum

Rachel Tambornino
Alternative Education Coordinator
iLEAD Charter School
Mauston School District
Case Scenario

Todd is a senior with severe AODA issues. In his junior year, he was truant 102 out of 180 days. He has earned 2 credits out of the 28 he needs to earn his diploma. His test scores put him at a 5th grade reading level. What do you do? How do you help him to be successful?
Why We Need A Change

1. Exposure vs. Learning
   ● “C’s Get Degrees”
2. Background Information and Gaps
3. True measure of student growth
4. Includes ALL students
5. Personalized
Why We Canned The “Canned” Curriculum

- The burn out
- Lack of engagement and proficiency
- Other pathways
How We Got Here

- The Need
- Developmental Process
- Hands-on and Field Trip Based
- Alignment
- Continual Revision
What We Do

- Hands-on Labs
- LOTS of Field Trips
- Build Background Knowledge
- Develop Social Skills
- New Experiences
- WRITE!
- READ!
First Things First

- Build a Family
- Community of Respect, Tolerance, and Honesty
- Teacher Included!
- SHOW You Care and are Committed
We Go Places

- Find a place and build a competency around it
- Think outside the box
- Mostly free
- About the “experience”
- Field Trip=Reduced Competency
We Write And We Read...

- Every competency has a writing component
- Mandatory reading time and log
- Not excused from certain competencies
- Daily English and Math
  - Journals, News Article, Grammar, and Math Problems
And Then We Write And Read MORE!

- Social Studies mostly all Document Based Questioning
- Thank You Notes
- Reader’s Workshop
- Technology used:
  - Google Docs!
  - NoRedInk.com
  - Newsela.com
  - Everfi.net
What The Data Says

- 2012 81% graduation rate of at-risk kids.
- 2014 98% graduation rate.
- Between 2014-Present students reading levels have gone up on average 3.9 GRADES a year.
What Data Can’t Measure

- **First time:**
  - out of the county
  - out of the state
  - at a 3D or Imax movie
  - at a non-fast food restaurant
  - at a musical/play
  - LIKING SCHOOL

- **Confidence, social skills, and FAMILY**
Questions? Want To See It In Action?

Rachel Tambornino

rtambornino@maustonschools.org