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# Press Release

## West Platte School District Hosts Summer Learning Institute for Teachers

Weston, MO, July 30, 2013

Teachers in the West Platte School District have taken part in a week-long, 40 hour Summer Learning Institute during the last few weeks as they prepare for the upcoming school year. During the week of July 22, secondary teachers completed professional development training provided by West Platte administrators. A host of educational consultants also delivered information specific to new programs being implemented during the upcoming school year. The same training was completed by elementary teachers during the week of July 29.

The Summer Learning Institute included a number of sessions focused on the continued migration of the District's instructional program to the Common Core State Standards. A new approach to curriculum development, called Build Your Own Curriculum, was introduced as the vehicle the District will use to transition to a new written curriculum, which is aligned to the Common Core. CharacterPlus character education training was presented as the platform upon which the climate and culture of the District will be established this year. Various technology sessions were also offered, including training on: Acuity Student Assessment, Smart Board Training, Common Sense Digital Media, NBC Learn, Windows 8, and Google Apps for Education.

The Summer Learning Institute was offered to all certified teachers. The West Platte Board of Education approved compensation for this professional development earlier in the year as a component of the 2013-2014 budget. Teachers were compensated for their time through additional funding which was added to the District's Extra Work for Extra Pay Program.

Two additional professional development and orientation days will be held for new staff on August 7 and 8. All staff return on August 12 and will complete three additional work and in-service days prior to students returning on August 15.

Professional Development is one of five major focuses for the 2013-2014 school year and it is anchored to Strategy 10 of the West Platte School Improvement Plan, which states, "We will develop and implement plans to ensure we recruit, train, and retain excellent staff through high quality professional development and highly competitive compensation. For more information on the West Platte School Improvement Plan, visit [wpsd.net](http://wpsd.net) under the Board of Education tab.