

NC DPI
School & District Spotlight 4/30/15

Simons: **Debra Simons, Wilson County Schools**
F: **Female Speaker**

[MUSIC]

Crowdus: So with that I'm actually going to turn it over and stop talking so you can listen to actual best practices and not me [ph].

Simons: Well, hello. My name is Debra Simons, with the Wilson County Schools. We've been using Schoolnet this year in a few different ways. We've been partnering with some of the schools. But at this point we've created eight district leaders to go out and train two at a time for each school.

The first day is creating an assessment, and their exit ticket is to actually make it and assign it to their class. And then the second day of training that we come back, we look at the data from what the students have done on that assessment and we dig into the instructional materials, which the teachers have really loved.

I recently—I'm out of the classroom. I taught for the last ten years. So going into the schools I've told them that I know I Googled my life away trying to find information that was relevant to the standards that I was teaching that was, in fact, common core. Everything online says common core right now, and then after I had started, I realized, "No, this doesn't fit with what I was doing."

So what we've done is we've taken the instruction materials that you guys already vetted for us, and we've actually linked them to the Wilson County

School's documents also. So what we've done is all of the documents that we have, our curriculum frameworks, lesson plans that have been given to us by teachers, our testing calendar, I've put them all into Schoolnet, into the instructional materials. And I've set them with the keyword WCS. So now everybody in our district knows if they search WCS as a keyword and they can go [ph].

Within that I've taken it to each grade level. So at a kindergarten reading, kindergarten math, kindergarten science, kindergarten social studies. And it starts with their curriculum framework. And then it goes on to the lesson plans, resources and assessments that DPI has already put in there for them. So I've just linked it all in one place. So now they just go in to their instructional materials, they type in WCS and what grade they teach, and it all pops up in one place for them. They can also submit things to me that I can put in there. And we're constantly updating that. We have found that some of the web pages that were—or the websites that were listed as resources—are no longer working. So the teachers know they just send me a quick email and I unlink it from their category.

But all in all it's been really nice getting out into the schools and helping teachers. We're now starting with K2 and getting out to the teachers now because especially with the math items that have come out, linking those and coming out and working with our resource teachers so that they can collaborate with the classroom teachers and have the same resources at the click of a mouse and be able to work on the same page and look at the same data. So it's been very beneficial to our students. The teachers are loving that everything is in one place,

which is what Home Base was supposed to be. And they're excited that it, in fact, is doing that. And even our exceptional children's program has been creating the extended standards, and we're starting to put those in and link those in as well. So it's been really, really nice.

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