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Steve's Sound-Off

January 2016

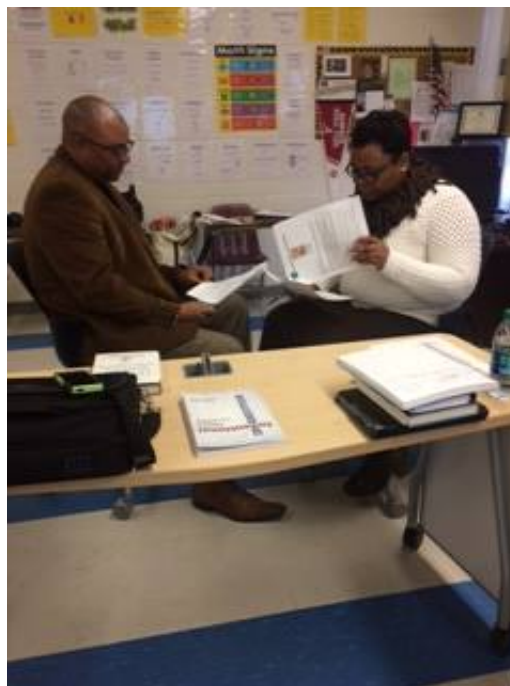
Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Being resilient is an important skill to possess when facing life's challenges large and small, from implementing new school policy to digging out after a blizzard. I encourage you to continue to build educational environments in 2016 where students and staff alike are able to take risks, learn, and grow.

~Steve

PACT Update

EES is currently assisting the Department of Education in Alabama through an initiative called PACT to provide individual assessment and targeted professional development to currently licensed school administrators who have the capacity and passion to serve as a turnaround leader in the state's priority rural schools. PACT participants are off to a productive start in the new year. All groups participated in a 1-day workshop with Dr. Debbie Lane on January 12-13 during which featured reflection and instructional planning around 'The Principal Story.' In February, EES consultant Mike Evans will lead a discussion on ISLLC Standards and Turnaround Principals. Keep up the great work, all!



Building Resilience

Resilience is essential to our students' wellbeing - it contributes to their cognitive, social, physical, and emotional development and provides a way for parents and teachers to prepare children should anything go wrong. In fact, being resilient and learning to 'play' is so important to children's optimal development that the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights has recognized it as a human right of every child. Unfortunately, in recent years time learning resiliency and 'play' in a

child's schedule has been decreased for many of our children due to hurried lifestyles, changes in family structure, and increased attention to academics.

Resilience is the capacity to withstand stress and catastrophe. Psychologists have long recognized the capabilities of humans to adapt and overcome risk and adversity. Individuals and communities are able to rebuild their lives even after devastating tragedies.

Being resilient doesn't mean going through life without experiencing stress and pain. People feel grief, sadness, and a range of other emotions after adversity and loss. The road to resilience lies in working through the emotions and effects of stress and painful events.

Resilience is also not something that you're either born with or not. Resilience develops as people grow up and gain better thinking and self-management skills and more knowledge. Resilience also comes from supportive relationships with parents, peers and others, as well as cultural beliefs and traditions that help people cope with the inevitable bumps in life. This is why childhood 'play' can be so important. Resilience is found in a variety of behaviors, thoughts, and actions that can be learned and developed across the life span.

For more on resilience, click [here](#)

International Opportunities

- We are looking for certified teachers to teach kindergarten in Dailian, China starting Fall 2016. Interested persons please send a resume and any questions about this exciting opportunity to Michelle at michelle@edwardsedservices.com!
- Do you have an innovation that improves the art of teaching? Consider submitting it to the International Convention on Inventions in the Classroom sponsored by the [Khaitan School](#) in India.
- WANTED: A qualified educator to serve as principal of [The Sagar School](#) for a 2-3 year contract. The successful candidate will be distinguished by his/her integrity, personal vision, moral standards, dignity, patience, energy, and flexibility of approach.

For more information about these opportunities, please contact Michelle at michelle@edwardsedservices.com.

Events

[2016 National Conference on Bullying & Child Victimization](#), February 21-24, 2016 at the Doubletree Hotel at Seaworld in Orlando, Florida. This conference brings together the most knowledgeable and internationally renowned keynote presenters into one forum to provide the highest quality professional development possible in one conference.



National Youth-at-Risk Conference, March 6-8, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency in Savannah, Georgia. This conference is designed for all school and community personnel interested in fostering the well-being of youth at risk



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All the best,

The ED Educational Team
Edwards Educational Services, Inc.



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