**Cells Unit Test Proficiency**

The Cells Unit Summative Assessment was a common assessment that was given to all 7th Grade Science Students. It was given during the 2nd Trimester at Fossil Ridge Intermediate School. The assessment was taken by all students in the Computer Lab. The Summative Assessment was published on the UTIPS website and was automatically scored and graded by the testing software.

I was extremely pleased to see that the girls in the class did **not** score below the boys. In fact, the average scores were very close with girls actually outscoring the boys. The minority students and the Special Ed student did score lower than the class average, but they were still proficient.

*Were the students proficient? Why or why not?*

Yes! The students were all proficient. The cut off score was 70 percent. That means if a student scored below 70 percent, they were provided with one day’s worth of intervention instruction and allowed to retake the test. Any score above 74 percent was considered proficient. Students that scored higher than a 95% were considered exemplary.

The reason all students were proficient is that they do not have the option to fail. When students fall under the cutoff score (70%), they immediately become the focus of our 7th Grade PLC intervention plan. Another day of instruction is provided for them and they retake the assessment. This type of intervention seems to work well and allows all students the opportunity for success.

I also believe that as a 7th Grade Science PLC team, we discuss the best ways to plan and design our lessons to meet the 7th Grade Science Standards. We work well together and discuss what strategies work the best with our students. Our common assessments allow us to compare results of all our students and make data driven decisions on what’s best for our students and how they can meet their learning objectives.