

RSS Update

When you are stuck – we are here to help you!

By Susan Martin, Central II Regional Service Specialist

On Sunday, Jan. 26, 2025, ABC News reported that “The U.S. and Canadian Coast Guards continued efforts on Saturday (1/25/25) to break up ice and free a freighter that has been trapped in a frozen Lake Erie for days.” The freighter was stuck and could not travel to its destination without help. It amazes me that such a large and powerful ship was not able to break free and move through the ice on the lake. Only with the efforts of agencies from two neighboring countries was this ship able to sail to its destination.

This news story caused me to stop and think about how many times I have been stuck when trying to achieve a goal. If you are like me, my first thought is to dig in and get unstuck to achieve my goal. Often, I would spin my wheels and not make much progress. In the end, I would be in the same spot with the same frustrations. However, when I took the time to reach out to a colleague, I came away with a different frame of reference and then attacked the goal, leading to success.

As educational leaders, we need to remember that we are all working together toward the same result – successful, educated graduates. We need to reach out to each other when we become stuck. Your colleagues have undoubtedly experienced situations that are very similar to the situation that has caused you to be stuck. When the PA Principals Association hosts meetings that bring together administrators from across the state, I hear comments that many districts are facing the same problems and that administrators benefit from knowing they are not alone in a particular issue.

As you work through the second semester of the 2024-25 school year, I encourage you to reach out to your colleagues when you are stuck. Believe it or not, you have colleagues across the state who are ready and willing to help you to achieve your goals. Education is not a competition. We all need to work together to achieve our goals. If you get stuck, reach out to your Regional Service Specialist (RSS), State Director or Regional Board member who can help to connect you with your colleagues. We do not need to be stuck for days when there is help available to keep you moving toward your goals.