

Strengthening Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Program

Grantee Information:

Grantee: **Brasher Falls Central School District**

Partner: **St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES**

Abstract:

The following professional development will be provided for teachers during the grant period:

1. Specially designed/differentiated instruction and active engagement strategies sharing workshops. Teachers will be given release time, and the district will provide substitutes (through funding other than the TLE grant) for collegial sharing facilitated by an expert in these areas. The teachers will walk away from these workshops with actual materials that they will incorporate into lessons to promote the active engagement of all learners.
2. The professional development that will enable teachers to embed higher level thinking skills in the lessons will take place through St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES (SLL BOCES). The SLL BOCES has hired two experts in the field to provide professional development on common core curriculum development, pacing calendars, and the ladder of complexity. Through the curriculum development process BFCSD teachers will engage with experts in the field on how to develop critical thinking skills among students.
3. The Brasher Falls Central School District (BFCSD) will train teachers on how to develop and implement interim, formative assessments, to drive instruction. The district will establish 4 half-day staff development sessions in which students are released early to allow this teacher training to take place. Experts from SLL BOCES will provide direction on how to use a particular format e-Doctrina to create assessments, analyze assessment data, and alter instruction, with an emphasis here on students with special needs and the economically disadvantaged requiring additional instruction. TLE grant monies will be used to train teachers in use of data to drive instruction.
4. The BFCSD has put a great emphasis on vocabulary instruction and the creation of word walls and vocabulary notebooks, across all grade levels and content areas, over the past 2 years. However, the district has identified a gap in the use of vocabulary development as it relates to the writing process, in both fiction and non-fiction writing. Professional development monies from the TLE grant will provide a writing summer institute during year two of the grant to expand upon our current pre-kindergarten through grade 12 initiative. The vision is to provide training in Collin's writing to all teachers pre-kindergarten to grade 12, across all curriculum areas. Teachers will have had a year to become familiar with the common core standards, implement interim assessments, use these formative assessments to determine the instructional needs of individual students and by year two will be ready to embrace a writing initiative.
5. Professional development, that is targeted specifically to needs of individual teachers based on the Marzano rubric and student outcomes as part their APPRs, will be provided. These trainings will focus on the elements identified in Marzano's "Art and Science of Teaching Framework". The district will select these workshops from those offered by SLL BOCES, videos embedded in the Marzano platform in iObservation, turnkey trainers, and third party providers.

6. The TLE grant will also provide school administrators opportunities to enhance their knowledge-base in many areas of administration by participating in trainings offered by the School Administrators Association of New York State and the New York State Council of School Superintendents.

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