

Strengthening Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Program

Grantee Information:

Grantee: **Hicksville Union Free School District**

Partner(s): **Teachers College, Nassau BOCES**

Abstract:

The STLE Grant will support four main initiatives within the Hicksville Union Free School District: (1) a partnership with Teachers College Writing Project to train elementary and middle school teachers for implementation of a writing program; (2) the research, review and purchase of a Common Core aligned elementary mathematics program; (3) the purchase and integration of iPads with software to create a technology-based curriculum aligned to targeted interventions for RTI; and (4) teacher-mentoring initiatives providing opportunities for teachers deemed most effective in areas of strength to mentor colleagues in areas in need of strengthening.

All initiatives are part of a cohesive and comprehensive Teacher Leader Effectiveness System leading to improved student performance on State assessments and improved teacher practices supporting all learners in meeting the rigor of the New York State Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS).

Accountability data for 2011 shows that elementary students with disabilities did not meet Adequate Yearly Progress in ELA and secondary students with disabilities and English language learners at the middle school did not meet Adequate Yearly Progress for ELA. The goal for the first grant initiative is to provide professional staff development for teachers in implementing a writing program that is researched based, aligned to the rigor of CCLS with pre and post assessments to evaluate the success of the program in advancing student performance on the State ELA assessment to proficiency levels.

The goal for the second grant initiative is to provide opportunities for teachers to: review research-based math programs as members of the district textbook review committee, pilot portions of math programs, and work with district administrators to recommend one cohesive program to meet the rigor of the CCLS. Teachers K-5 will be provided professional staff development opportunities for the implementation of the recommended new math program, will use data analysis to drive instructional planning as well as differentiated instruction in order to support students with disabilities and English language learners to meet the rigor of the CCLS.

The goal of the third grant initiative is to provide training to students, teachers and administrators on the use of iPads to utilize the technology-based curriculum software which will provide individualized learning plans for each student. In order to reach this goal, iPads will be purchased for all 6th grade students. Student performance data from the NWEA MAP assessment in math and reading will provide data necessary to diagnose student learning needs and assist in setting specific learning goals with the use of academic apps to be used during differentiated instruction sessions.

The goal of the fourth grant initiative is to provide teachers who have areas in need of strengthening with an exemplary teacher mentor in targeted areas to improve teacher practices, instructional

strategies, use of technology integrated within the curriculum, and strengthen data analysis skills for data driven instruction with the creation of differentiated lessons designed to improve the performance of all learners.

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