

Strengthening Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Program

Grantee Information:

Grantee: **West Babylon School District**

Partner: **Silver Strong & Associates LLC**

Abstract:

The initiatives in this grant include professional development, which will be delivered to teachers and administrators by trained professionals, to enhance teaching strategies and implementation of the Common Core Standards. Silver Strong and Associates will provide training to improve the district members' understanding of the *Thoughtful Classroom Teacher Effectiveness Framework*, which has been adopted as the evaluative process for teachers' APPR. A cohort of teachers will be identified and provided with additional training throughout the school year and summer. These teachers will form Building Effectiveness Teams that will provide turn-key training within their buildings and workshops for teachers at the district Best Practices Academy. These workshops will further explore research-based strategies and offer guidance for teachers on effective implementation. The STLE grant also provides stipends for teachers who obtain additional teaching certification in the area(s) of Special Education and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. Teachers who obtain these additional certifications will learn new strategies to assist these high needs students in achieving success.

In addition to professional development, the STLE grant provides the West Babylon School District with software to assist in the observation process and reflective practice. The teacher facilitators and district administrators will receive iPads to assist in the management and delivery of professional development and the teacher evaluation process. During the grant's two-year implementation period, a comprehensive program evaluation will also be conducted by an external consultant.

Teachers and district leaders will benefit from the initiatives in the STLE grant through the professional development provided and the opportunity to obtain additional certifications. Further knowledge of the Common Core Learning Standards and strategies for effective implementation will increase the teachers' and leaders' knowledge of research-based practices. This increased knowledge will positively impact student achievement and result in the development of a culture that supports learning for all students.

From the commitment to developing the Teacher and Leader Effectiveness continuum, the West Babylon School District expects that the effectiveness of all teachers will increase, based upon the APPR framework, leading to improved student achievement, especially for Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners, as measured by New York State Assessment results. The proposed five-year goal is to close the achievement gap for these students so that their State assessment results will mirror those of the general population. The district partnership with Silver Strong and Associates and funding from the STLE grant will allow the West Babylon School District to realize measurable success for all students.

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