

Strengthening Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Program

Grantee Information:

Grantee: **Wyandanch Union Free School District**

Partner: **Western Suffolk BOCES**

Abstract:

Due to the poor performance of Wyandanch Union Free School District's students on New York State assessments, there is a need to provide a host of professional development for the teaching and administrative staff in order to improve teaching and learning. The STLE grant will provide push-in coaching and modeling by Western Suffolk BOCES who have a significant track record of providing effective professional development in using technology to raise student achievement, particularly special education students and English Language Learners. Technology tools to be purchased through this grant opportunity include SmartBoards, iPads, Student Response Systems, and sound enhancement systems.

Adelphi University professors will push into classes and model and coach teachers to improve their teaching of STEM. They will also provide opportunities for Wyandanch Union Free School District (UFSD) teachers to participate in a program of in-service courses that will provide training and support for teachers wishing to improve their math and science teaching. Courses are specifically designed to reinforce key content knowledge (e.g., mathematics problem solving, the nature of science, Newton's laws, inquiry, ecology) as well as pedagogy (e.g., claims-evidence-reasoning framework for scientific discourse) to support all learners.

Other support for engagement of students in STEM includes the use of the BioBus, a mobile science laboratory, complete with state-of-the-art microscopes and computers. The BioBus will spend a total of four weeks in Wyandanch each year of the grant to provide one week of science learning at each of their four elementary schools.

The STLE grant will also provide opportunities for teachers to become dual certified in ESL/bilingual, special education, and/or STEM in collaboration with Adelphi University and Brooklyn College. As a result, Wyandanch UFSD's teachers will be better prepared to address the learning needs of special education students and English Language Learners.

The district has a need for additional professional development for its teachers including: Common Core Learning Standards, meeting the needs of ELL and special education students, classroom behavior management, alignment of assessments with Common Core, writing Student Learning Objectives and providing professional development opportunities for ineffective/developing teachers.

Additionally, the STLE grant will provide opportunities for Wyandanch UFSD's Highly Effective and Effective teachers to mentor those rated Ineffective or Developing. Four teachers in each of the four schools will receive stipends to work with their peers before and after school to collaborate on lesson planning, as well as model and coach on effective practice for six hours each month.

The district will provide additional professional development for its administrators. The most pressing needs for improving the efficiency of Wyandanch administrators includes Common Core Learning Standards, using the APPR rubric, and writing SLOs. The district will also develop an Administrator Academy for new administrators and those rated as Ineffective or Developing.

Project Contact:

Name: Kevin Thornton

Title: Grants Coordinator

District: Wyandanch Union Free School District

Address: 1445 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Wyandanch, NY 11798

Phone: 631.870.0418

Email address: Kevin.thornton@wufsd.net