

## Strengthening Teacher and Leader Effectiveness 2 Program

### **Grantee Information:**

Grantee: **Pine Bush Central School District**

### **Abstract:**

The Pine Bush Central School District has established a learning community built on collaboration and partnerships and a commitment to excellence. Our mission is to prepare students for success in life with a vision to maximize student achievement to ensure college and career readiness in a global society. The District values teacher and leader excellence and accountability and has put many initiatives in place over the past five years to support those priorities. Resources from the Strengthening Teacher and Leader Effectiveness 2 Grant will be used to support that existing framework and provide additional opportunities for professional growth that will help improve academic performance of students with disabilities, advance student learning in math, and improve inter-rater reliability for administrative compliance with Education Law 3012-c. The primary objectives of the grant are:

- To promote responsive and reflective teaching and leadership that will guide novices and enhance the performance of veterans by expanding the career ladder
- Provide professional development that is corrective, timely and focused in order to create a learning community that supports the ongoing implementation of the Common Core curriculum and the Annual Professional Performance Review process
- Establish collaborative relationships with experienced educational consultants from outside the district that will provide opportunities for mentoring and/or coaching for administrators and teachers

Currently, grade level leaders, support seminar participants, department chairs, and team leaders are district paid stipend positions according to the Pine Bush Teachers Association contract. Through the grant, we will add Master Teachers, Master Principals, and Learning Lab Coaches by offering an additional stipend to expand the career ladder. Those individuals will be expected to provide professional development to their peers in order to share their knowledge and expertise and build capacity. Math coaches will also be added to the continuum in order to

## **Strengthening Teacher and Leader Effectiveness 2 Program**

support the implementation of the Math in Focus program in grades K-8. It is closely aligned to the Common Core modules and promotes teaching and learning strategies that reinforce numeracy and problem solving skills. Substitutes will be funded through the grant in order to support the above-mentioned initiatives by providing release time.

We also plan to establish Learning Lab 21<sup>st</sup> century model classrooms in all seven schools in an effort to model best practices in Common Core instruction and technology. Resources from the grant will be used to send the teachers for additional professional development that promote creativity, collaboration, critical thinking and communication. Technology equipment to support that type of teaching, i.e. Smart Boards and Chromebooks, will also be purchased. Teachers throughout the district will have opportunities to visit these classrooms and will be encouraged to implement the strategies in their own classrooms.

Several outside consultants will also be hired to support the objectives of the grant. Since data from the NYS assessments identifies a need for improvement in the performance of special education students, two Special Education Consultants will provide expert staff development in differentiation in an effort to strengthen teaching and learning strategies for students with disabilities. An additional consultant will be hired to offer professional development to principals and assistant principals to ensure our inter-rater reliability for teacher APPR evaluations. This individual will conduct site visits, shadow observations and provide coaching and mentoring.

The Pine Bush Central School District is very committed to the principles of the Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Grant and the opportunities for school improvement that it will provide to our entire educational community. Implementation of the outlined initiatives will nurture the knowledge and experience of our staff and students and ensure success for all.

### **Project Contact:**

Name: Donna Geidel

Title: Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

District: Pine Bush Central School District

## **Strengthening Teacher and Leader Effectiveness 2 Program**

Address: PO Box 700, Pine Bush, NY 12566

Phone: 845-744-2031 ext. 4011

Email address: [dgeidel@pinebushschools.org](mailto:dgeidel@pinebushschools.org)