

Strengthening Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Dissemination Grant:
Principal Leadership Abstract

Grantee Information:

Grantee: **Greater Amsterdam School District**

Consortium members: **Broadalbin-Perth Central School District, Canajoharie Central School District, Edinburg Common School, Fonda-Fultonville Central School District, Fort Plain Central School District, Gloversville Enlarged City School District, Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery BOCES, Lake Pleasant School District, Mayfield Central School District, Northville Central School District, Oppenheim-Ephratah-St. Johnsville Central School District, Wells Central School District, and Wheelerville Union Free School**

Abstract:

Greater Amsterdam School District (STLE 2 recipient) is lead applicant for an STLE-D consortium that is comprised of the Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery BOCES and 13 of its component school districts. Two additional consortium members are also previous STLE grantees: Broadalbin-Perth and Mayfield. This consortium leverages the lessons learned, best practices, and STLE programs of the three districts, with STLE-D grant funds supporting dissemination of STLE activities to non-STLE districts through a comprehensive, enhanced Professional Learning Community (PLC), called the “Academic Leadership Academy,” or ALA.

All ALA participants will take part in a nationally-recognized assessment process that allows an individual’s pathway to be tailored to his/her personal and leadership strengths. Participants will study the books *StrengthsFinder 2.0* by Tom Rath and *Strengths Based Leadership* by Tom Rath and Barry Conchie, and complete associated online personal assessment tools. In addition, the ALA will include the following three key components, all related to activities started by partner districts through their previous STLE grants:

1. Teacher Leader Certificate of Advanced Study (CAS): The Teacher Leader Certificate Program (provided through a partnership with SUNY Plattsburgh) will address NYSED’s guidelines for

educational leaders, Model Teacher Leader Standards, Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC), Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) Quality Principles, and the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards. The program's goal is to produce teacher leaders with the knowledge and skills to work with school administrators and to lead instructional improvement in their schools.

2. Principal Academy: In partnership with SUNY Plattsburgh, the Principal Academy will meet for four sessions during the grant period and cover topics related to effective school leadership that reflect the needs of consortium members. One session on Principal Mentorship will be provided by the School Administrators Association of New York State (SAANYS).

3. Peer Mentoring: Professional growth of non-STLE teacher leaders and teachers will be promoted through peer observation based on the Danielson Model of observation and evaluation. STLE teacher leaders will follow-up classroom observations by providing targeted professional development in areas needing improvement, as well as one-on-one coaching and support.

Program goals and objectives include:

Goals: 1) Create advanced leadership opportunities throughout the region to leverage the talents of the highest performing building leaders and teacher leaders. 2) Extend the reach of three existing STLE programs by modeling specific approaches to the development, implementation, and support of a region-wide TLE system, expanding access for non-STLE building leaders and teacher leaders.

Objectives: 1) Of 200 teacher leaders participating in the program, 30% will enroll in and attend CAS courses. 2) Of 100 building leaders participating in the program, 75% will attend all four Principal Academy sessions. 3) Of 300 participants, 95% will complete the StrengthsFinder personal and leadership assessment process. 4) 200 teachers will participate in peer

observation and mentoring (as either a mentor or mentee). Of teachers receiving mentoring support, 90% will report that participation contributed to growth in their teaching skills.

Project Contact:

Name: Thomas Perillo

Title: Superintendent

District: Greater Amsterdam School District

Address: 11 Liberty Street, Amsterdam, NY 12010

Phone: 518-843-3180

Email address: tperillo@gasd.org