

Strengthening Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Dissemination Grant:
Principal Leadership Abstract

Grantee Information:

Grantee: **Depew Union Free School District**

Consortium Members: **Maryvale School District and Clarence Central School District**

Abstract:

The Depew Union Free School District will collaborate with Clarence Central School District and Maryvale School District to focus on strengthening teachers and leaders through focused professional development and common goals. Principals and teacher leaders on varying levels of career pathways will be afforded opportunities through this grant by investing in a variety of professional development activities that will enhance and heighten their knowledge and skills. These learning opportunities will result in turnkey training to all teachers in each of the 3 districts. The areas of focus will be primarily in the areas of aligning instructional strategies to the CCLS while using the NYS Practice Guides through the use of professional learning community model and frameworks. This collaboration will also create a cultural change in all 3 districts based on study of the works of Carol S. Dweck PhD and the book *Mindset* and also *The Leader in Me* by Stephen Covey.

Goal, Objectives and Activities:

The overarching goal of this project is to improve principal and teacher leader effectiveness and increase their capacity to improve the academic achievement and college/career readiness of our students; especially the students not performing at proficiency levels in ELA and Math. We will focus on three areas to improve academic success for all students:

- 1) To implement school-wide culture change in a buildings using the *Mindset* (Carol Dweck) and *The Leader in Me* (Covey) philosophies.
 - STLE Principal will mentor the non-STLE principal from partner school (Maryvale) and non-STLE assistant principal (in house) on a bi-monthly basis to create a plan of action to create a school-wide culture change in a building using the *Mindset* (Carol Dweck) and *The Leader in Me* (Covey).

- STLE principal will mentor non-STLE principal to create a group of teacher leaders within each building to facilitate the action plan. The work will consist of identifying a variety of opportunities for teachers to collaborate and learn about the importance of a growth mindset and the impact on academic success.
 - Teacher leaders will facilitate book studies with all content areas and identify the connection between the *Mindset* and *The Leader in Me* with CCLS's instructional practice. They will identify, share and model the strategies using video and My Big Campus.
- 2) To implement the instructional shifts required by the CCLS in all content areas using distributed teacher leaders creating collaborative learning opportunities focused on best practices.
- Teacher leaders and coaches will use PD360 to facilitate collaborative meetings and share best instructional practice and strategies.
 - Principals will use the NYS Instructional Practice Evidence Guide for Common Core State Standards during the APPR process and teacher leaders will model lessons using instructional strategies to other teachers.
- 3) To utilize DDI technology to incorporate regular, collaborative and systematic practice for the teachers in all core academic areas.
- Teacher leaders will learn to use technology such as Edocrina to produce reports for use in the five step DDI process resulting in the identification of learning gaps and plan strategies to remedy the gaps. Principal and teacher leaders will learn how to implement and sustain an ongoing DDI process and will be able to model informal and formal formative assessment and identify various strategies for differentiation of instruction and ways to remedy the identified gaps.

Project Contact:

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