

Summer 2007 Professional Development

K12-HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS TO ADVANCE STUDENT LEARNING IN SCIENCE

Next year's sophomores must pass the science WASL to graduate from high school.

How is your school preparing students at every grade level to succeed in science?

Sustainable Professional Learning Communities



NCOSP invites all partner schools to select up to 4 teachers to participate in a unique program to implement sustainable professional learning communities supported collaboratively by Teacher Leaders and Higher Education science faculty. These communities will use the district adopted science curricula to focus on science content and instructional strategies that will help students learn. All workshop expenses and teacher stipends will be provided for the summer program and cost-sharing will be awarded for continued support during the academic year. Additional funding will be available in Summer 2008 for schools who successfully complete the 2007 program.

THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MODEL

NCOSP Teacher Leaders and their Administrators will identify additional teachers to participate in science professional development directly connected to the science curriculum and linked to student work. Each school-based team will define the content learning needs of both teachers and students to be addressed and lay the foundation for a sustainable model of building-based professional learning.

The NCOSP Teacher Leader and their partner Higher Education Science Faculty will collaboratively design a 3-day content-focused professional development experience during a planning week in July 2007. The 3-day program will then be delivered to teams of teachers later that summer based on district calendars. Teams will: (1) review research findings on how people learn, (2) identify instructional practices that will enhance the potential for students to learn from the district science curriculum, (3) agree on appropriate samples of student work to collect in the fall, and (4) assess the extent to which students are realizing the intended learning goals. The Teacher Leader and Higher Education Science Faculty will facilitate the team discussions and activities. Administrators will collaborate with the Teacher Leader to support and sustain the professional learning community in the building.

THE RESEARCH BASE

An effective science education program will help students succeed on the science WASL. Research from projects across the country has shown that such programs have the added benefit of also improving student performance in reading, writing, and mathematics. In those projects, professional development focused on the curricula, the content, and the appropriate instructional strategies for that content. It was closely tied to the classroom, focused on student learning, and sustained through collaborative learning communities among teachers. The strategies applied in science provided opportunities for students to apply and extend their knowledge and skills in reading, writing, and mathematics, leading to improved performance across the curriculum.

A cadre of Teacher Leaders and Higher Education Science Faculty with knowledge in content, pedagogy, curriculum, and leadership has emerged through the reform efforts of NCOSP, ESD189, ESD114, LASER, and partner districts and higher education institutions. These science educators are ready to help partner districts develop the capacity to support and sustain learning communities focused on student learning.

EXPECTATIONS

Success of these professional learning communities (PLC) will require substantial commitment on the part of both School Administrators and NCOSP Teacher Leaders. Agreement to fulfill these expectations is required to participate. Participation in this program is required for schools and districts to receive continued NCOSP funding in the 2007-08 academic year and summer 2008.

1 ADMINISTRATOR AND NCOSP TEACHER LEADER COLLABORATION

Successful implementation will require the combined expertise of both Teacher Leaders and Administrators.

- Identify 3-4 teachers to participate in PLC
- Define teacher and student science content learning needs related to science curriculum
- Select available dates for PLC to begin work in summer (*between July 30-August 24*)
- Support a plan for continuing the PLC work in the academic year
- Support, monitor, and assess the work of the PLC during the academic year

2 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

The program includes key learning opportunities for Administrators, Teacher Leaders, and other participating teachers to ensure all have the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed.

- Principal and NCOSP Teacher Leader participate in awareness sessions to clarify PLC model and school expectations (optional)
- NCOSP Teacher Leader
 - Five-day planning week with higher education partner, July 23-27, 2007
 - Three-day professional learning community activity, select dates between July 30-August 24, 2007
 - Four NCOSP professional development days during the 2007-08 school year
- Principal
 - Contribute to planning with Teacher Leader and Higher Education Faculty via an electronic feedback system.
 - One day professional learning community activity, select dates between July 30-August 24, 2007
 - Two NCOSP professional development days during the 2007-08 school year

3 TIME AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION

Combining NCOSP, school, and district resources will improve student learning.

- Grant resources support summer PLC activities
- Combined grant and district resources support academic year PLC activities

4 APPLYING AND REPORTING

Participation in the program will be granted following a competitive application process. Feedback to all schools will be provided to maximize the number of successful applications.

- Submit a school-based application
- Submit brief quarterly reports on PLC activity
- Submit quarterly invoices for PLC expenses
- Contribute to NCOSP evaluation efforts

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- A common vision of effective science instruction
- Knowledge of content and pedagogy needed to use instructional materials well
- A professional learning community inclusive of K-12 teachers, administrators and higher education faculty

IMPORTANT DATES

AWARENESS EVENTS

Check the website for dates and locations

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

March 5, 2007

APPLICATIONS DUE

May 7, 2007

PLC PLANNING WEEK

July 23-27, 2007

PLC ACTIVITIES

July 30-August 24, 2007

REPORTS AND INVOICES DUE

December 3, 2007

March 3, 2008

May 5, 2008

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