

Abstract
MiPad @ Grant

MiPad @ Grant will address students' technology needs at Grant Middle School, a Persistently Lowest Achieving (PLA) school in Syracuse, New York. This project will target ninety (90) students in grades 7 and 8. The project will enable teachers and the Library Media Specialist to better prepare these students for college and career. By providing an iPad for each student on a team to facilitate Common Core State Standard (CCSS) implementation, students will become better able to respond and adapt to rapid changes taking place in technology and learning.

Measurable Project Objectives include: 1) provide one iPad to each member (students, teachers, and Library Media Specialist) of a project team; 2) improve student achievement; 3) effective use of iPads by students in classroom achievement; 4) students will utilize iPads to solve real world problems; 5) students will synthesize and express ideas both in written and oral formats; 6) teachers and the Library Media Specialist will effectively use iPads in their instruction practices; 7) teachers will incorporate instructional approaches and technologies to provide students with opportunities to demonstrate mastery of learning outcomes; 8) teachers will incorporate motivating and meaningful opportunities into instruction to engage students in learning experiences; and 9) teachers and the Library Media Specialist will collaborate on instruction.

The project will promote an increase in continuous, progressive integration of instructional technology in classrooms and the school library to improve student academic performance in relation to the New York State Learning Standards (including Common Core). In addition the project will provide ongoing, sustained professional development focused on increasing the knowledge and skills of teachers and the school Library Media Specialist in the use of instructional technology to help these staff attain higher levels of performance in the New York State Teaching Standards. Finally, the project will make use of recognized research-based model programs that have shown promise in significantly increasing student academic achievement.

The project will meet the New York State Board of Regents' Reform Agenda goals through implementation of educational technology consistent with the Statewide Learning Technology Plan.

Ongoing professional development will be provided to train and support teachers and the Library Media Specialist in the design, development and delivery of instruction that effectively "makes strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentation" (CCR). Project staff will collaborate to strengthen their expertise and pedagogy while also working together to effectively integrate iPads and the Common Core. This professional development will be provided in a variety of formats (live, blended and virtual) to offer access and flexibility while also involving participants in innovative teaching and learning.

Project activities will occur in the classrooms and in the school's library media center. Other District project staff include the Director of Technology and two Education Technology Specialists. Five non-public schools will also participate in this project.