

**Yonkers City School District – Project Respond
2012-2015 Learning Technology Grants Three Year Application**

Proposal Abstract

Project Respond provides a unique opportunity for students, teachers, and administrators to collaboratively develop and integrate ongoing formative assessment strategies through the use of technology tools supporting digitally enriched learning and teaching. Efforts align with New York State Learning Standards, including Common Core, and support teacher designed and developed lessons and units across the curriculum. *Project Respond* supports the **New York State Regents Reform Agenda Goals #1 and #3** through high quality sustained professional development supporting Development of Highly Effective School Leaders and Teachers, and Development of Student College and Career Readiness. *Project Respond* supports the objectives of the New York State Learning Technology Plan and Teacher, Student, and Administrative Standards of the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE).

The project is designed to support teachers and administrators of **grades 3 through 8** from **Cross Hill Academy, a PLA School, R.C. Dodson, a Year 2 Corrective Action** Bilingual School, and **St. Peter’s Nonpublic** School, through implementation of strategically designed lessons and units incorporating ongoing formative assessment using student response systems and other technological tools including web based forms, interactive technologies, and student developed materials and assessments. Response systems are increasingly used at the college level. Research shows that classes incorporating student response systems have increased participation, as well as higher student satisfaction with students reporting more ownership over the pace and discussion of classes (Burnstein and Lederman, 2001; Woods and Chiu, 2003). The project is designed to support greater student participation, clarity of student comprehension, increased collaborative learning, improved teacher effectiveness through increased access to information, timeliness of data, and individualization of data gathering.

The **purpose** of *Project Respond* is to **promote creation of collaborative teams of teachers and administrators to support student achievement, fostering Regents Reform Agenda goals through ongoing quality professional development, development of rigorous and highly engaging learning experiences, supporting college and career readiness.** Project **objectives** include 1) high quality professional development through afterschool workshops, classroom/library coaching, and online mentoring, provided by district staff and Teq professional developers. Teachers, including library media and technology specialists, and administrators, will receive professional development in the 2) design and delivery of curriculum incorporating formative assessment and student engagement through student response systems, web forms, wireless slates, and other interactive devices, as well as web sites and Open Educational Resources (OER) such as *EngageNY*, *Google Docs*, and *The Library of Congress*. A strategically designed annual escalation of approach supports 3) capacity building through formative assessment awareness, teacher, and team development.

Alignment supports New York State Learning Standards, including **Common Core**. Students will value evidence and use technology capably to read, write, speak and listen for information and understanding (*ELA.1*), as well as for critical analysis and evaluation (*ELA.3*). College and Career Readiness will be supported as students respond to varying demands of task, and audience, value evidence, while using technology and digital media strategically (*CCR*). Common Core Standards addressed include strong and thorough textual evidence developing factual, interpretive, and evaluative questions for further exploration of topic(s) (*RL.3-8.1.a*); research to build and present knowledge, use of effective advanced searches (*W.3-8.8*); and presentation of knowledge and ideas through strategic use of digital media (*SL.3-8.5*).