

2012-2015 Learning Technology Grant Program

Abstract

(Abstracts are submitted by the LTG award winners)

Increasing graduation rates and producing college and career ready graduates cannot be accomplished without focusing on the early and middle grades. In an effort to improve students' preparedness for the rigor of high school courses and pave the way toward college preparedness, John Ericsson Junior High School 126 will partner with St. Francis of Paola to provide technology-rich blended academic programs in English Language Arts and Mathematics to all students in grades six- eight. The two schools will equitably share GradPoint, an online curriculum-based program, to raise student achievement.

In order to reach the objective of raising by 10% the number of students scoring proficient in ELA, the targeted groups will include all grade 8 students, LEP students in grades 6-8, grade 8 SWD and students in the Black subgroup in grades 7 and 8. In order to reach the objective of raising by 10% the number of students scoring proficient in Mathematics, the targeted groups will include all grade 8 students including SWD and students in the Black subgroup in grades 6-8. The learning activities will take place in computer labs, classrooms and media center.

New York State Standards that will be addressed with this learning project are: Improve mastery of core subject areas essential for 21st century learning success by implementing the use of online digital learning programs that build skills in language arts and mathematics, and build content area competency and mastery through inquiry and problem-based approaches to learning. The Board of Regents Reform Agenda Goals that will be addressed are: raising graduation rates for at-risk students by increasing student engagement and ensuring college and career readiness and implementing strategies to dramatically improve outcomes for students attending the lowest-performing schools.

Both schools will reach the objective of all core subject area teachers participating in professional development in the integration of technology and the implementation and use of the online curriculum software. The professional development planned for the project will meet the New York State Standard of providing highly qualified and experience training and consulting professionals to help maximize the effectiveness of purchased programs. The Board of Regents Reform Agenda Goal of improving teacher and school leader preparation and effectiveness by emphasizing content knowledge; pedagogical skills; and measurable, performance-based evaluation.