

2012-2015 Learning Technology Grant Program

Abstract

(Abstracts are submitted by the LTG award winners)

Based on the NYC Department of Education Progress Report, our school dropped from the 79th percentile in 2009-2010 to the 3rd percentile last year in 2010-2011. This change, places PS112 Bronxwood, in the bottom 7% of schools and only shy 1/10th of a point away from being in the bottom 3%. Extensive work is needed to regain our placement and to further enhance our work with students to attain an “A” rating through the implementation of NYS P-12 Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS). This will be accomplished with the use of on a combination of Professional Development (PD) research-based instructional strategies and instructional software that have both proven to support academic gains in both English Language Learners (ELL) and students from Economically Disadvantaged (ED) homes.

Research shows that new technologies can provide meaningful learning experiences for all children, and especially those at risk of educational failure. As we capitalize on the relationship between technology and education reform, we will help students develop higher order skills and function effectively in the world beyond the classroom.

Currently, the school is using the reading component of the software, SuccessMaker. It incorporates a learning management system (LMS) that allows the teacher to customize the course to meet individual student needs by assigning lessons according to specific skills, concepts, or state and common core standards. We plan to enhance that system by adding the math component of the software as well as a similar program designed specifically for our English language learners (ELL). Additionally, we will provide PD to assist teacher in successfully utilizing data derived from the courseware and properly integrating our math and Reading curriculum with the LMS system.

Extensive professional development (PD) plans for effective implementation will include workshops and activities to provide intensive, sustained, and classroom-focused experiences that support the implementation of state standards and CCLS. By participating in various workshops, using data to determine student learning needs and monitoring teaching practices, teachers and administrators will gain a clearer focus on improving teaching practices therefore enhancing student outcomes.

Grades K-5 Students will participate in the implementation of this project. Teachers must be provided with the necessary support to sustain the continuous growth among their students in order to prevent failure. They must witness success among their students and school leaders must ensure the PD plan is continuously refreshed to reflect the teachers’ greatest development needs. Overcoming the challenges of our at-risk students and preparing our teachers to deliver effective, meaningful, rigorous instruction for all students will be our focus and guiding force throughout this three-year project.