

Proposal Abstract

Schenectady City School District

Science, Technology, English Language Arts Achieving Readiness for College and Career (STELAAR)

The Schenectady City School District STELAAR Project will focus on the ELA and science through technology in Grades 8 and 9 in two SCSD Schools and the only two non-public schools in the City of Schenectady. This grant will serve (875) 9th grade students at **Schenectady High School (SHS) - a Persistently Lowest Achieving School**, (375) 8th grade students at **Mont Pleasant Middle School (MPMS)**, (90) 8th and 9th Grade students at **Notre Dame - Bishop Gibbons (NDBG)** and (12) 8th grade students at **Brown School**.

Library Media Specialists will be the catalysts for change through formal summer professional development, embedded in-class modeling, and by continuous learning and sharing between and among LMS and teachers in Professional Learning Communities (PLC). Professional development will support teachers to develop project-based lessons and units focused on the ELA Common Core State Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards. Teachers will understand the iPad platform and integrate its full potential with students to support active learning strategies and differentiated learning strategies incorporating writing apps, science apps, interactive content, e-books, digital resources including textbooks and periodicals. These strategies and resources will combine to increase student motivation and achievement.

The project will integrate iPads (mobile technology) into instruction to support mastery of Common Core State Standards for ELA & Literacy in Historical/Social Studies, Science and Technical subjects as well as the Next Generation Science Standards. The iPad technology offers a myriad of educational applications to bring learning to life and support active learning strategies. For example, the Pasco SPARKVue Pasport sensor allows students to engage in exploratory learning activities by manipulating variables. The iPad has many applications to The three-year STELAAR Project will build capacity in the Schenectady School District and in each non public partner school by providing 45 hours of professional development to Library Media Specialists who will serve as turnkey professional developers. Project STELAAR will also provide over 100 hours of summer and embedded professional development to a cadre of 34 teachers. This capacity building will allow for turnkey professional development as well as modeling and sharing that leads to adaptation of technology-integrated instruction by colleagues outside the STELAAR Project.