

Proposal Abstract

Mount Vernon City School District proposes this Learning Technology program to benefit student achievement on 3rd – 8th grade Math and ELA Assessment for students at Benjamin Turner Middle school. Data from the New York State Education Department shows that students in this school lag behind state averages in ELA and Math assessments.

The objective of this program is to enhance student instruction through the integration of technology and strategically delivered professional development to improve student achievement on the annual statewide ELA and Math assessments for 3rd-8th grade at the participating schools. The focus of the project will be on the improvement of teaching and learning in Middle School ELA and Math classes. Project components will include instructional planning; gathering of student information through formative assessments, interim assessments, looking at student work; rapid-time reporting and analysis for data-informed decision-making; and offering professional development that is both job-embedded and on-demand through a web-based platform supported by strong instructional leadership.

The district will adopt a three-pronged approach to enhancing instruction through technology in ELA and Math core courses. The first set of activities includes providing the participating teachers and their students with Office 365, a suite of tools that help students and teachers accomplish much more with simple file sharing, real-time co-authoring, and online classes and conferencing, along with providing Microsoft Surface Tablets for teachers to use, as appropriate, in their classrooms. The second major component of the project will be an extended set of staff development activities that includes online activities and resources as well as face-to-face teacher development meetings. The third component of the project will be to develop a set of online resources and tools designed for ease of use and applicable to teaching and learning

The project will utilize formative evaluations to assist in decision-making to improve, continue or change strategies early in the project to avoid wasting resources.