

Reading Apprenticeship Study Participation

Grant Overview:

UPDATE (03/31/11): After attending the second webinar on Reading Apprenticeship, it was confirmed that:

- 1) Travel costs will be covered through the grant.
- 2) Substitute costs will be covered through the grant.
- 3) A late application is possible.
- 4) The district retains the right to rescind its application should the Board choose not to approve it.

Teachers at both Warren Area High and Eisenhower Middle/High Schools have indicated interest in participating, and the principals are working with Central Office administrators to gather the information necessary to complete the application. The new application will be due on April 8th, instead of March 31st.

UPDATE (4/7/11): Another e-mail was received from the funder. Applications will be accepted up to Thursday, April 14, 2011. At this time, WAHS has an application ready for submission. EMHS is still considering the opportunity.

Reading Apprenticeship is a research-based framework which supports middle school, high school, and community college students at all levels to develop positive literacy identities and engage with challenging academic texts. Teachers, schools, districts, and community colleges implementing Reading Apprenticeship find that it can produce a dramatic, positive transformation of students' engagement and achievement not only in literacy, but also in learning across all academic disciplines.

The Reading Apprenticeship model is based on research showing that most students are capable of complex thinking and carrying out scientific, historical, and literary inquiry but have not been given the skills or self-confidence to approach these tasks effectively. The model addresses students' motivational needs while building skills and knowledge for subject-specific literacy tasks, strengthening students' view of themselves as readers and learners, and yielding strong, documented gains in student achievement.

Eligible teachers must teach regular education courses that cover the content assessed in the Keystone exams of interest (9th grade English Language Arts, US History covering 1850 to present, and biology). Teachers will complete brief monthly on-line surveys. They may be asked to submit lesson plans or to be observed, with notice, and not more than a few times per year. Researchers will work with schools and teachers to administer brief student surveys and assessments. Aggregate results will be shared with all grant participants.

Selected teachers participate from summer 2011 to the end of the school year in 2014. Teachers in the intervention group receive professional development in the summer of 2011 and institute Reading Apprenticeship methods in their classroom. Control group teachers do not receive professional development until the end of the grant period.

Amount of Award: N/A. Participating teachers will receive stipends of up to \$5,000 each.

Due Date/Notification of Award: Application due on April 8, 2011. Assignments announced in April 2011.

Alternatives if not Awarded: Reading Apprenticeship professional development will not be delivered.

WCSD Resources Required: Some substitute time may be necessary to cover teachers attending professional development.

Administrative Recommendation: That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to work with interested district high schools to develop applications to participate in the Reading Apprenticeship study.