



PROJECT EXCELL!

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Project EXCELL! Phase II Briefing

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Project EXCELL!, Amphitheater's implementation of the United States Department of Education (USDOE) Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) Grant, is a wonderful opportunity for our teachers, students and the district as a whole. The grant also presents healthy challenges for us. We are in Phase II of our project with the start of the 2008/2009 school year. Eleven of our schools have qualified for participation.

Classroom Assessment Component of Project EXCELL!

The classroom assessment component gives the participant the opportunity to design or choose an assessment that fits exactly what they teach. The goal of quality classroom assessment is to provide the teacher with information which will inform instruction in a timely manner. The Classroom Assessment Form is available on line. Instructional Support Leaders have a flash drive pre-loaded with the form if there is difficulty with downloading.

Remember, the Classroom Assessment is done TWICE this year. Participants must fill out TWO complete packets, one in the fall, and one in the spring. Some teachers may choose to use the same assessment both semesters. In this case, two forms are completed. The final data from the November submittal would then be utilized as the preassessment data for spring semester assessment. Other teachers may choose to do two completely different assessments, one in the fall and one in the spring.

Pay close attention to the quality indicators for classroom assessment. The indicators can be found on the Classroom Assessment Form in each section. There are 18 indicators marked by an open circle on the form. There are also 3 other requirements (e.g., reflection, work samples, class list with scores). A total of 21 points will be reviewed for the purposes of the pay out. Further, you must complete the whole assessment package in order to receive your pay out. The pay out will be determined as follows:

1-10 Total Indicators Met= No award pay out

11-13 Total Indicators Met= 20% pay out

14-17 Total Indicators Met= 60% pay out

18-21 Total Indicators Met= 100% pay out

Class List Details

The process of collecting and verifying accurate class lists is important. To this end, we will be sending out class lists at the end of January for all participants to verify. For teachers who have semester long or quarter long classes, your class list will be verified in November.

Teachers who work in special programs (e.g., REACH, SPED, ELD, etc.) will be sent a spread sheet of student names. You will select the names of the students you have worked with this year. There are many different programs and many ways that students are grouped and regrouped for instruction. As a result, we will need your help in clarifying the particular situation at your school to be certain we are pulling the correct data for your pay out. Please do not send lists. If you have already done so, that is fine. We will contact you for further information if necessary.

SPECIAL NOTE: We will not be utilizing data at the teacher level for the January pay out. The class list information will be critical for the second pay out.

New Documentation Envelopes

Everyone should have their new blue, plastic documentation envelope. If you did not receive your envelope, please call us.

Documentation Reminder

Be sure to reread the documentation requirements for your November 20th submittal. Documentation requirements are listed on each page of the point charts on pages 18-31 of the Implementation Manual. Page 49 of the manual has a checklist to assist participants in preparing the documentation submittal.

Focus Groups

Two focus groups will be held during second quarter. The purpose will be to gather participant information with regard to the implementation to this point. If you were on a Focus Group last year, you will be invited to attend one or more meetings again this year. If you would like to be a part of a Focus Group, please email rlopez@amphi.com. The time commitment is very limited, 90 minutes on one afternoon. New teachers to the profession and new teachers to our district are especially needed.

Good Web Site on Assessment

<http://jonathan.mueller.faculty.noctrl.edu/toolbox/whatisit.htm>

Documentation Submittal Deadline is November 20th!