

Teaching is the Core Grant Summary Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES

Participating Districts: Brocton, Chautauqua Lake, East Aurora, Eden, Falconer, Forestville, Frewsburg, Holland, Iroquois, Lake Shore, North Collins, Pine Valley, Ripley, Silver Creek, Westfield

Total Award: \$400,000

Focus Areas:

- Improve the quality of assessments used in the consortium districts, while reducing those that do not contribute to teaching and learning.
- Build capacity of local districts in “assessment literacy” in order to make decisions around the selection and use of quality assessments and see the power of assessment to support further learning.
- Develop communication tools for consortium districts to use with parents and community members around assessment literacy, uses of assessment and the Common Core in an effort to help those groups understand changes as a result of Race to the Top and reduce number test refusals in participating districts.

Specific Activities:

- Assessment Audit Workshop (2 day) led by Learner Centered Initiatives, Ltd for consortium principals and district leadership (*tentatively scheduled for January 2015*)
- District Assessment Audits – conducted by district administrators and selected teachers, supported by IES Staff Development/Data Specialists (*beginning September 2014*)
- Development and implementation of District Action Plans based on audit findings: retain, revise or reject current assessments (*beginning Winter 2014*)
- Regional workshops to support the implementation of workshop findings including,
 - Assessment Design Work Groups – content area development of assessment items to be housed in the regional assessment item bank; review of current assessment items in increase quality (*beginning Fall 2014*)
 - Piloting of K-2 Portfolio Assessment (*beginning Winter 2014*)
 - Assessment Institute (led by Learner Centered Initiatives, Ltd) – four days of professional development including understanding reliability/validity of assessment, quality assessment design, performance assessment design and other areas as identified by district assessment audits (*beginning Spring 2015*)
 - Assessment Literacy Sessions – delivered both face-to-face and online by the IES Team to help advance the understanding of quality assessments and assessment design (*beginning Winter 2014*)
 - “Test Prep without Corruption” led by Learner Centered Initiatives, Ltd to assist teachers in assessing students through a variety of assessment approaches during instruction and focus on test preparation strategies that are designed to reduce student anxiety and not focus on raising student scores (*Spring 2015*)
 - Data Analysis Sessions, including Regional DDI meeting using Common Interim Assessments (*beginning September 2014*)

- Student Led Conferences – professional development designed to build an understanding of student learning by having student take ownership of that learning in communicating it teachers, parents and others (*Spring 2015*)
- Regional Board of Education Workshops – led by the IES Team to help the BOE members understand the Common Core, the NYS Assessments and use of data to “kick off” the work around parent engagement
 - Chautauqua County School Boards Annual Meeting Presentation on Common Core Learning Standards: Fact and Myth, September 2014 by Theresa Gray, Coordinator and Suzette Benson, Assistant Superintendent (E2CCB)
 - E2CCB Regional Workshop (*tentatively scheduled for Winter 2014*)
 - Individual District Workshops (*scheduled as requested beginning Winter 2014*)