

**2012-2015 Learning Technology Grant Program
Abstract**

(Abstracts are submitted by the LTG award winners)

MS053 Brian Piccolo is the focus of this learning technology grant application. The district and the Project Brian Piccolo grant participants understand that all students must be prepared to enter our global economy with strong 21st century technological skills along with our teachers' ability to present relevant, engaging lessons based on New York State P-12 Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS).

Approximately 90% of MS 053 students' families receive public assistance. Recent research in best practices for dropout prevention highlights the power of educational technology, as it "offers some of the best opportunities for delivering instruction to engage students in authentic learning, addressing multiple intelligences, and adapting to students' learning styles" (ICF International & National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, 2008, p. 65).

All students benefit when teachers use multiple instructional formats beyond the traditional textbook as part of their daily instruction. Advancing technology has spawned new types of students that multitask, use multiple devices and spend lots of time in social media. It's time to think differently about how we educate students, and adapt new practices to maximize the available channels of communication and collaboration.

Based on our needs assessment, Project Brian Piccolo will focus on closing the achievement gaps for all our grades 6-8 students, especially at risk African American (64%) and Hispanic (33%) students who demonstrate poor gains in English Language Arts and Mathematics when compared to their White peers city-wide. In order to raise student academic achievement, increase college and career readiness and technology literacy skills, we have chosen to implement *SuccessMaker* in classrooms and the media lab center along with intensive standards based technology integration professional development for our teachers. Project Brian Piccolo will close the achievement gap by integrating technology into daily instruction using the following strategies: technology-enhanced Response to Intervention (RTI), differentiated instruction, student engagement and data-driven decision making.

The *SuccessMaker* program selected for our classroom/media lab project incorporates a learning management system (LMS) that allows teachers to customize instruction to meet individual student needs by assigning lessons according to specific skills, concepts, or state standards. Research shows that new technologies can provide meaningful learning experiences for all children, especially those at risk of educational failure. As we capitalize on the relationship between technology and education reform, we will help students develop higher order thinking skills so that they can function effectively in the world beyond the classroom.