

Proposal Abstract for Doyle Middle School IPADS Project

The Enlarged City School District of Troy is applying for a Learning Technology Grant to transform teaching and learning in its middle school. The intent is to make technology integral to the curriculum, and develop truly student-centered instructional models. Students with Disabilities (SWDs) currently show the greatest academic need at the Middle School, an urban school in Focused Restructuring for ELA, with a poverty rate just under 70%. This project is intensely focused on the educational needs of these Students with Disabilities. Implementation begins in the Special Ed setting, and progresses (in Years 2 and 3) to the General Ed population by turnkey professional development.

The IPADS Project (Individual Pupils Acquiring and Developing Skills) proposed for this grant will use the Apple iPad to allow students to learn at their own pace in their own learning style – one on one (1:1). It will provide teachers with the opportunity to depart from the predominant DMS practice of using a direct instructional model, workbooks and worksheets, a practice that drew recent criticism from the state education department’s Joint Intervention Team. The goal is to develop a more interactive and student centered curriculum and instructional delivery model. An integral part of this change in the Doyle Middle School (DMS) teaching and learning environment is the establishment of the library media center as the hub of technology integration and literacy.

The project’s three main goals include:

GOAL#1-Improve ELA Achievement through the use of 1:1 technology for all middle school students with special focus on Students with Disabilities (SWDs).

GOAL #2: Improve teacher capacity for integrating technology in English Language Arts and the ability to deliver a student centered curriculum.

GOAL #3: Increase the use of the library media center as the hub of technology integration and literacy for all students.

Year One will involve 7th and 8th Grade Special Education Students in the Doyle Middle School. Year Two will expand the reach of the project to 6th Grade Special Education Students. Year Three will see the project expand again to include General Education students.

Project success will rely heavily on the professional development plan which is designed to incorporate best-practices and foster the continued development of a professional learning community. Equally important is the opportunity to align and integrate existing resources such as Pearson web-based textbook resources, applications and software already owned by the district. Teacher success with this tool will be enhanced as they serve as peer mentors over the three year grant time frame and beyond.