Recruitment for the Evaluation of the Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum

Register your district’s high school(s) to receive teacher professional learning at no cost for an evidence-based English language arts curriculum designed to prepare students to meet the demands of college-level coursework.

Project Description

WestEd, in collaboration with the California State University (CSU), the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, the Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, is recruiting California and Washington high schools to participate in a federally funded Investing in Innovation (i3) grant that will examine the impact of the Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum (ERWC). The ERWC emphasizes the in-depth study of analytical and argumentative reading and writing, including informational and literary texts and rhetorical analysis. Through a previous i3 grant the ERWC was found to have positive impacts on students’ English language arts (ELA) achievement in grade 12. For the current i3 grant, the ERWC will be developed and evaluated as an ELA curriculum in grade 11, in addition to its current offering in grade 12, and it will address all of the Common Core State Standards for ELA in grades 11–12. The curriculum will be initially implemented (or piloted) during the 2018-19 school year. The grade 11 ERWC will be evaluated in 2019–20, and the grade 12 ERWC will be evaluated in 2020–21. Participating schools will continue to offer their other grade 11 and 12 English courses as well.

1 The Fresno County Superintendent of Schools is the Local Education Agency for the i3 project.
Stipends

• Stipend for participating districts: $5,000
• Stipend for participating schools: $20,000
• Stipend for participating teachers who teach the ERWC: $2,000 (per year)
• Stipend for participating teachers who teach the non-ERWC: $1,000 (per year)
• Stipend for participating teachers who teach the ERWC in the pilot year: $500

Benefits to Participation

• Teacher professional learning costs are covered: travel, summer workshop sessions, coaching sessions, and professional collaboration meetings. The professional learning will advance teachers’ understanding of the ERWC, with coaches provided throughout the school year to support teachers as they implement the curriculum.
• The curriculum materials will be provided free of charge.
• Teachers can provide input in the development and modification of the curriculum through their piloting of it.

Requirements for participation

• Participating schools must be willing to implement the Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum in grades 11 and 12.
• Among the students who wish to enroll in “English 11” in the 2019–20 school year, the participating schools must be willing to work with WestEd to randomly assign those students to either the ERWC or the English curriculum that is typically offered at the school in grade 11. Parents/students cannot opt out of the randomization process.
• Participating schools must be willing to administer a one-period English assessment to grade 11 students at the beginning of the 2019–20 school year.
• Participating schools must administer the Smarter Balanced assessment to students in grade 11 during the 2019–20 school year with reasonably high participation rates.
• Participating schools must be willing to administer a two-period English assessment to students in grade 12 at the end of the 2020–21 school year.

>>> To apply or to learn more about the ERWC project, please contact Anne Keicher at WestEd at 510-302-4207 or akeiche@wested.org<<<

>>> OSPI Contact: Molly Berger, English Language Arts Specialist at 360-725-6070 or molly.berger@k12.wa.us <<<