



## Teaching is the Core Grant Goals and Activities

The Rochester City School District (RCSD) seeks to utilize the Teaching is the Core grant during the 2014-15 school year to support the examination of local assessment practices with the following goals:

1	Conduct a full review of all local assessment practices for grade K-2 to ensure that local tests help inform instruction and improve student learning outcomes.
2	Reduce unnecessary tests by conducting a collaborative analysis of the Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR), specifically as related to local assessments for K-2 students to provide recommendations for eliminating unnecessary testing.
3	Offer smarter testing options for English Language Learners and develop a clear plan for native language arts assessments for Spanish Speaking ELLs.
4	Develop strategies to increase parent engagement and communication related to the local implementation of the Common Core and use of formative and summative assessments.
5	Strengthen professional development to assist educators in the use of assessment for learning and data driven instructional practices.
6	Create a comprehensive assessment calendar.
7	Select/Develop common authentic performance based assessments with common rubrics to serve as the foundation of locally selected measures for APPR.

To accomplish the goals listed above, the district will partner with PLC Associates, Inc. While not named in the original grant proposal, the district chose to seek out PLC Associates as a partner in this work, as we believe they are suited perfectly to assist us in fully realizing the goals of our proposal.

- PLC Associates CEO Penny Ciaburri, and Facilitators Jan Lutterbein and Linda Sykut are certified Outside Educational Experts. Their work, specifically at the K-2 level, is a best fit for the intended outcomes of this grant proposal.
- PLC Associates have demonstrated expertise in working with educators to facilitate positive changes in school and district assessment practices and have worked successfully with other large urban districts.
- PLC Associates Facilitators are available on a continuous basis to plan collaboratively, provide expert guidance, monitor implementation, and ensure continuity throughout the process.

PLC Associates will work with the RCSD on an abbreviated timeline to ensure all proposed goals are fulfilled by providing the following services:

- Training and facilitating the Rochester Assessment Collaborative (RAC) K-2 working group including 40 hours of professional development from January 2015 through June 2015.
- Administer a comprehensive district-wide survey of current assessment practices to provide a foundation for work.
- Provide 4 days of training to the District Administration Team from December 2014 through May 2015 centered on assessment literacy, design, and implementation.
- Provide consultation and feedback throughout the life of the project.

Please see below for a more specific timeline of actions the district has taken and will take to meet the goals stated above with the support of PLC Associates.

	Activities	Goals
<b>September</b>	Creation and public posting of 2014-2015 assessment calendar	4 6
<b>October</b>	Begin review of performance-based assessments and rubrics associated with the APPR process.	1 2 7
	Initial meetings with Departments of Bilingual Education and English Language Learners to define the scope of the Rochester Assessment Collaborative (RAC) work	3
<b>November</b>	Convene District Administration Team to conduct a comprehensive review of course catalog and associated assessments used for APPR purposes	1 2
	Initial meetings with RCSD Communications Department to strategize creation of Parent and Community Communication Toolkit	4
<b>December 1, 2014:</b> Announcement of grant award and public posting of proposed plan for the use of funds.		
<b>December</b>	Formation of cross-disciplinary RAC K-2 teams	3 5 7
	Conduct district-wide comprehensive survey of current assessment practices electronically	1 2
	Complete analysis of current testing time burden	1
	Work with RCSD Office of Parent Engagement to begin development of Parent and Community Communication Toolkit	4
<b>January</b>	Full review of current assessments complete	1
	District Administration Team Training Day One: Assessment Literacy – Designing CCLS aligned assessments	3 5
	K-2 RAC: Use of multiple measures and formative feedback (2 half-days)	5 7
<b>February</b>	District Administration Training Day Two: Assessment Literacy – Designing Performance Assessments	3 5
	K-2 RAC: Action inquiry cycle, looking at student work protocols (2 half days)	3 5 7
	Present Parent & Community Communication Toolkit materials to families at RCSD Parent University event	4
<b>March</b>	District Administration Team Training Day Three: Assessment Literacy – Assessment for Learning Theory, Strategies to inform instruction and promote student ownership of learning	3 5
	K-2 RAC: Looking at Student Work applied to writing and problem solving in math (2 half-days)	3 5 7
<b>April 1, 2015:</b> Results of comprehensive assessment review		
<b>April</b>	Piloting of K-2 assessment tasks	5 7
	District Administration Team Training Day Four: Assessment Literacy – Using Assessment Data to inform instruction and create student ownership of learning	3 5
	K-2 RAC: Using assessment to differentiate versus using differentiated assessment (1 half day)	3 5 7
<b>May</b>	Ongoing piloting of K-2 assessment tasks	3 5 7
	K-2 RAC: Designing and using quality rubrics (1 half-day)	3 5 7
	Final recommendations for K-2 assessment tasks made to Superintendent	2 3 7
<b>June 1, 2015:</b> Action plan and activity summary posted and shared.		
<b>June</b>	Implementation of summative K-2 assessment tasks	2 3 5 7
	K-2 RAC: Student self-assessment	3 5 7