



To: Teachers Learning Together (TLTs)
From: Jeanne Tomlinson and Amy Kilbridge
Date: October 4, 2010
CC: Superintendents, Curriculum Directors, Coaches, Principals, Special Education Directors, Stan Kogut, Cindy Anderson, Roberta Perconti,

Welcome to Teachers Learning Together! (TLTs) We're glad that you have chosen to be a part of this exciting initiative. You and other teacher pairs across Ingham County will be learning together with Dr. Kevin Feldman, a national Education Consultant. Dr. Feldman's work ties directly to the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) Research and will focus on instructional strategies for content area literacy and student engagement. These practices will include but not be limited to the following: explicit vocabulary and comprehension instruction, opportunities for extended discussion of text meaning and interpretation and increasing student motivation and engagement.

As a participant in the TLT initiative, you will be expected to: utilize the strategies you learn, observe and be observed by the teacher you are paired up with, collect student response data, and discuss what you are learning with your partner and the building RtI coach. You will be video-taping your teaching so that we can share individual and collective learning. We know that we are asking you to work on your practice in ways that may be new, and you will be supported in this process by your principal, your coach, Ingham ISD Consultants, and Kevin Feldman.

In preparation for the first two days with Kevin Feldman on October 19th and 20th, he suggests that you take a look at the

IES Practice Guide:

http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/pdf/practiceguides/adlit_pg_082608.pdf

We know that many of you are familiar with this resource but you may want to review it before our first meeting. Other suggested readings are:

Carnegie: Time to Act:

<http://carnegie.org/programs/past-commissions-councils-and-task-forces/carnegie-council-for-advancing-adolescent-literacy/time-to-act/>

Carnegie: Writing to Read:

http://carnegie.org/fileadmin/Media/Publications/WritingToRead_01.pdf

Research has shown that this type of collaborative engagement in teaching and learning has the most potential for empowering teachers and increasing student success. We commend you for your dedication and your willingness to work on improving teaching and learning. This is an incredible opportunity to increase student achievement and add to the field regarding how Response to Intervention works at the high school level.

Attached are a video release form and a contract for you to sign and return to us by October 19th. (You can bring them to the first session with Dr. Feldman) We're looking forward to joining you in this meaningful work. If you have any questions, please contact us:

Content

Amy Kilbridge – akilbrid@inghamisd.org
Jeanne Tomlinson – jtomlinson@inghamisd.org
Nancy Theis – ntheis@inghamisd.org

Meeting Dates/Logistics:

Deb Kirchen – dkirchen@inghamisd.org



Teachers Learning Together (TLTs) 2010-2011 Contract

Description of Teachers Learning Together (TLT):

Teachers Learning Together (TLT) is a professional development opportunity funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and attendance is required of participants. This initiative is designed to provide teachers with research-based strategies and implementation techniques that can be used across the middle and high school curriculum to teach academic language/vocabulary and content literacy skills to students in order to narrow the language gap and improve comprehension.

Dr. Kevin Feldman will be the lead trainer for this project. Dr. Feldman is director of reading and intervention for the Sonoma County Office of Education and an independent educational consultant working with districts across the country. He has more than 38 years of experience in education, with a primary focus on accelerating the literacy of struggling readers, English language learners, and students with disabilities.

TLT Participants:

Pairs of middle and high school teachers who have been identified and have accepted the invitation will participate. Pairs from each building consist of some of the following individuals:

- General education content area teachers
- Special education teacher/s
- Reading specialists
- Literacy coaches

Expectations for TLT Participants

Participants will:

- Commit to attend the following seminars throughout the 2010-2011 school year:
 - October 19th and 20th Instructional Literacy Strategies with Kevin Feldman
 - February 9th and 10th Instructional Literacy Strategies with Kevin Feldman
- Create lesson plans that incorporate the strategies from the training
- Implement the strategies and techniques learned in their classrooms
- Observe and be observed by their TLT partner
- Collect student response data
- Discuss what they are learning with their partner and the building RtI coach.
- Video-tape their teaching to post online so that it can be shared for the purpose of collective learning.

Expectations for Leadership Team

Participants will:

- Support TLTs by attending the following seminars:
 - October 18th Improving Adolescent Literacy with Kevin Feldman
 - February 8th Instructional Literacy Strategies with Kevin Feldman
- Provide follow-up at the building level
- Provide onsite support and assistance for all participating teachers

Expectations for Dr. Kevin Feldman

Dr. Kevin Feldman will:

- Provide research informed training on October 18, 19, 20 and February 8, 9, 10
- Provide follow up to October 18, 19, 20 and February 8, 9, 10
- Be available for email questions/support at: kfeldman@scoe.org
- Provide feedback for classroom videos

Assurances

We have read and agree to the parameters and responsibilities as outlined above and agree to complete the commitments as listed and will collaborate with Ingham Intermediate School District to extend the project impact.

Dr. Kevin Feldman's events for October will be held at the University Club of MSU, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. The sessions will be held in the Main Dining Room from 8:30-3:30. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. The location for the February dates is still to be determined.

District

Building

Building Administrator

Date

**Administrative involvement is critical and therefore required.*



Ingham Intermediate
School District
A Regional Educational Service Agency

PHOTO / AUDIO / VIDEO RELEASE

Ingham Intermediate School District produces various materials to promote our schools and our programs and services to celebrate our successes. These materials may include photos, audio/video, online publications and other distribution channels. Printed publications might be distributed throughout the community.

I authorize Ingham Intermediate School District to record my image and/or voice and use quotes, and convey all rights to use these images or words for the purposes stated. I understand that these images or words may be used for educational and promotional purposes in conventional and electronic media, now and/or in the future. I understand and agree that these images or words may be duplicated, distributed and/or altered in any form or manner without compensation or liability, in perpetuity with any of our educational partners.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Local District Classrooms or Student Groups

I verify, as the teacher/administrator of the school, that we have parental permission to capture the images or words of students in the following class to use as indicated above:

School: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

Authorizing Name (printed): _____

Position (printed): _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____