



*Region One ESC Collaborative for Excellence in
Science Teaching
District Support Letter*



Cornelio Gonzalez, Ph.D.
Executive Director

District: _____ Campus: _____

Please check box below and provide signatures on this support letter and return with the teacher application(s) and commitment(s) to the Region One ESC.

Yes, our district/campus is committed to the partnership with Region One Education Service Center Collaborative for Excellence in Science Teaching Grant. This partnership commits to a systemic improvement process in which the participating schools will take part in the activities outlined in this initiative. The focus is middle school science targeting Category 3: Earth and Space Science TEKS. The grant requires the implementation and documentation of this process in the participants' respective schools. Our District/Campus is committed to support teachers in the following:

Option A: Immersion* School-Professional Development options

Immersion Model – all teachers from targeted 8th grade level will participate in required trainings as STMs (at least 1 teacher) or CMs (other teachers in the 8th grade level)

1. 8th grade Science Teacher Mentors (STMs) will receive and complete a minimum of **100 contact hours** of high quality, sustained and intensive professional development. The STM trained **must** attend the following professional development offerings:

- May 2015: (TBA) Initial meeting with All STMs to introduce initiative
- **Mandatory Summer Academy** consisting of 10 days of training
 - **July 20-24, 2015**
 - **July 27-31, 2015**
- Required Follow Up Meetings
 - Fall/Spring 2015-16- Four Update Meetings (afterschool meetings)-TBA
 - Fall/Spring 2015-16-Three half day Saturday meetings (4 hours)-TBA
- STMs will receive approximately \$1500 stipend for the 10 days of the Summer Academy and 3 required Saturday trainings. In addition, they will receive free instructional materials and resources.

2. All STMs will mentor at least two science teacher Cadre Members (CMs) at their designated campus (8th grade science teachers) with no less than **24 hours** of documented contact time.

3. Additional technical assistance and support will be provided by ESC staff to the Immersion Campus STMs.

4. Optional- Present at a local or state Science Conference/Texas Regional Collaboratives for Excellence in Science Annual Meeting.

Option B: Non Immersion School-Professional Development option

Traditional Model – at least one science teacher from 6th grade, 7th grade, 8th grade will participate as STM or CM

Just as in the **immersion school model**, the science content/pedagogy training and best practices in teaching will be provided by Region One ESC Specialists to these STMs.

1. Science Teacher Mentors (STMs) will receive and complete a minimum of **100 contact hours** of high quality, sustained and intensive professional development. The STM trained **must** attend the following professional development offerings:

- May 2015: (TBA) Initial meeting with All STMs to introduce initiative
- **Mandatory Summer academy** consisting of 10 days of training
 - **July 20-24,2015**
 - **July 27-31, 2015**
- Required Follow Up Meetings
 - Fall/Spring 2015-16-Four Update Meetings (afterschool meetings)-TBA
 - Fall/Spring 2015-16-Three half day Saturday meetings (4 hours)-TBA
- STMs will receive approximately \$1500 stipend for the 10 days of the Summer Institute and 3 required Saturday trainings. In addition, they will receive some instructional materials and resources.

2. All STMs will mentor at least two science teacher Cadre Members (CMs) from their designated campus (middle school teachers) with no less than **12 hours** of documented contact time.

3. Optional-

- Present at a local or state Science Conference/Texas Regional Collaboratives for Excellence in Science Annual Meeting.

Campus Responsibility

- Campus Administrator will encourage 1 (preferably 2) teacher(s) to attend professional development sessions throughout the year (100 hours)
- The Campus Administrator will assign the **Science Teacher Mentor** at least two Cadre Members at their respective campus to instruct.
- The Campus Administrator will **allocate sufficient staff development and mentoring time** to ensure mentees (CMs) will receive at least twelve hours of contact time with the STM and for the **immersion campuses** the other twelve hours can be acquired through a Region One ESC science specialist.
- The Campus Administrator will provide grant leaders with information on classroom implementation of all trainings/mentoring (observations, conversations, etc). This can be done via email or phone calls.
- The Campus Administrator will grant permission to the Region One ESC Texas Regional Science Collaborative Partnership to access individual student assessment and demographic data from the Region One ESC databases, and from applicable partner databases for the purpose of compiling data to inform Partnership practice, and to comply with mandatory reporting as required by the United States Department of Education. **This data must include:**
 1. Number of students taught directly by the Teacher Mentor
 2. Number of students from question 1 with state assessment data in science for 2015
 3. Number of students from question 2 who **did not** meet standard on the state assessment 2015
 4. Number of students from question 2 who **did** meet standard on the state assessment in 2015

This data will be submitted to Texas Regional Science Collaborative, reported only in aggregate form (combining data across approximately 1,000 Teacher Mentors) and will not be made available on an individual basis to anyone outside the TRC evaluation staff.

Please indicate below your commitment:

GRADE LEVEL (circle grade): 6th grade teachers/7th grade teachers/8th grade teachers

Number of Science Teacher Mentors (STMs) participating _____ (100 hours)

Number of Science Cadres (CMs) participating _____ (12 – 24 hours)

District Superintendent

Campus Principal

Date

Return this support letter along with teacher application(s) and commitment(s) by February 3, 2015 to:

Elda Christian
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 (956) 984-7641 (fax)