

CLASSROOM EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE

The Classroom Excellence Initiative is a collaborative effort with the University of Pittsburgh's Partnership for School District Improvement (PSDI) in the School of Education, 3 Rivers Connect (3RC) and OnHand Schools (an educational software provider). The Classroom Excellence Initiative is a two-year project that:

- Provides classroom teachers and instructional leaders in 10 school districts with the EdInsight Data Window™, a sophisticated, yet easy to use tool to access student data,
- Provides teacher training on the PA Department of Education (PDE) data tools and a framework for acting on that information, and
- Gives districts with the opportunity to participate in the development of a shared resource library to support differentiated instruction within classrooms that is aligned to the PDE anchors and tied to classroom data utilization.

The EdInsight Data Window™ from OnHand Schools

Participating school districts will be offered a sophisticated tool, the EdInsight Data Window™ from OnHand Schools that automatically collects and transfers data in "real-time" from an existing Student Information System, PSSA data files, and other assessment data sources. **EdInsight is extremely easy for teachers and administrators to use.** It generates detailed student performance information at the individual class and student level, and shows district and building strengths, weaknesses and trends over time.

Teacher Training from the University of Pittsburgh

Participating school districts will be provided training for teachers and administrators from a team of two PSDI instructors. PSDI trainers are familiar with the EdInsight Data Window™ and the latest PDE assessment tools available to schools (PSSA Data Interactive/4Sight Benchmark Assessments/ PVAAS/Grow Network etc.). PSDI will focus the training on the PSSA test spans of grades 3 through 11 in math and reading. PSDI believes that student progress will follow whenever teams of teachers use data to develop instructional strategies on a student-by-student basis focused around the assessment anchors. **The training will take place within each district and will be tailored to meet individual district needs.**

Shared Resource Library with the Quality Classroom Consortium

Participating school districts will become involved in building a shared resource library via participation in the Quality Classroom Consortium. The consortium is comprised of a diverse group of school districts across the state that are already using the EdInsight Data Window™ to access their student data. The districts in the consortium meet regularly to discuss data needs, new instructional strategies and differentiated approaches for their students. The resource center will enable districts to add interventions, resources, lesson plans, etc carefully cataloged and aligned to the standards and anchors. These resources will be shared with all districts in the project and in the consortium.

The District Will Need To:

- Be committed to looking at student performance data and using it to make instructional changes.
- Commit to the full two years of the project.
- Have the appropriate computer technology in place for all teachers to be able to access student data.
- Commit to providing the appropriate decision-making personnel in the set-up of the EdInsight system and the professional development training i.e. Director of Technology and the person responsible for coordinating professional development in the district.
- Provide the equivalent of 6 full training days each year via in-service, Act 80 days or common planning time that would focus on reviewing and analyzing student data.
 - 4 quarterly review days
 - 1 data retreat
 - 1 specialized training day
- Provide passwords to obtain various types of data.
- Have an MS SQL and other software and a computer server that can run MS SQL.

Costs

The Grant Will Provide:

- The full cost of the PSDI (Pitt) training in year one (approximately \$25,000)
- Half of the cost of the PSDI (Pitt) training in year two (\$12,500)
- The full one-time set up fee for the EdInsight Data Window™ from OnHand Schools (\$7,500)
- The full cost of the EdInsight annual license fee from OnHand Schools in year one (\$5 per student with a base minimum of 1,750 students)
- Half of the cost of the EdInsight annual license fee from OnHand Schools in year two (\$2.50 per student)

The District Will Pay:

- The cost of a server, if needed, and affiliated software in year 1.
- Half of the cost of the data training in year two (\$12,500)
- Half of the cost of the annual license fee for the EdInsight product in year two (\$2.50 student)

School Selection Criteria

The grant provides funding to work in 10 districts in southwestern Pennsylvania. In selecting the districts, every effort will be made to find several “resource challenged” districts with a relatively large African American population, suburban and rural districts, and districts who are struggling academically as measured by their PSSA scores and their AYP status. Participation in the Education Leadership Institute (ELI) will also be an important factor in selecting districts. A strong preference will be given to districts with a high market value/personal income aid ratio and to districts/schools using or planning to use the 4Sight Benchmark Assessments.