



About the Grant

The Ohio Department of Education awarded a \$7.7 million grant to Hamilton County Educational Service Center, and the Deer Park, Finneytown, Norwood and Reading School Districts in June of 2014. The districts and the ESC partnered together to write the Learning RE-Engineered Grant.

Executive Summary of Grant

Learning RE-Engineered is designed to re-engage struggling learners by re-designing classroom instructional practice to meet the reality of today's fast paced, technologically advanced world. Students will take ownership of their own learning using three highly engaging instructional programs aimed at keeping struggling learners in school and preparing them for careers and/or college by giving them the opportunity to attain work credentials. To acquire the contemporary learning instructional practices needed to transform teacher delivery methods and classroom instruction, teachers will engage in blended learning institutes that focus on empowering disengaged and struggling students with the ultimate goal of reducing the dropout rate, retaining students within the district, and preparing students for college and career.

Description of the Grant

Many high school students are disengaged, dropping out, or unprepared for college and careers. The world is changing rapidly, yet classrooms are still structured in the format that has existed for the last century. A transformation of teacher practice is needed to support today's students so they can meet the demands of the real world. Teachers need the following foundational skills in order to transform their instruction from teacher as expert to student as problem solver:

- Empower students to own their learning for college or career pathways,
- Integrate authentic technology in daily instruction,
- Become a globally connected educator,
- Create a collaborative classroom,
- Build authentic problem solving skills,
- Foster creativity in students,
- Develop social/emotional learning, and
- Revive the resistant learner.

Teachers need the opportunity to learn using a variety of modalities including traditional professional development sessions paired with online learning, participating in collaborative discussions, and projects. They also need to practice the innovative instructional skills in their classrooms with the support of colleagues and ongoing coaching.

To be successful, students need to think critically, communicate effectively, demonstrate creativity and engage in collaboration. **Learning RE-Engineered** will empower student-driven learning while transforming teacher practice. Institutes for educators (Contemporary Learning Institutes) were developed to alter current practice from teacher-led to student-centered instruction where students take an active role in shaping their learning. These institutes will promote 21st Century skills, in a blended model, which includes face-to-face meetings, online learning, collaboration opportunities and facilitated coaching. Students will participate in highly engaging research based programs that embed the aforementioned skills. These programs will provide the opportunity for teachers to practice the innovative instructional skills while students are engaged in active learning.

Although the purpose of this grant is to transform secondary education for the 5625 students directly involved, the ultimate outcome will impact all 505 teachers (K-12) in the consortium through participation in the institutes, thus impacting 8950 students. Through this pilot, demonstration sites will be replicated having exponential impact on transforming secondary education locally, regionally and statewide.

Learning RE-Engineered offers proven programs that embed the desired outcomes of the teaching institute. Teachers will use **Rock & Roll Academy, Usher's Music Industry Leadership 101, Smart Horizons** and **Contemporary Learning Sites** to launch the transformation of their own teaching practice. Furthermore, to meet Governor Kasich's mission of graduating students who are college and career ready, this project includes a mentor component comprised of community role models and business leaders to assist students in building a network to the real world upon graduation.

Rock & Roll Academy: Music-based program where students work in small groups with a facilitator to teach themselves and group members how to play musical instruments and perform the selected piece. Through this social and emotional learning model, students learn to negotiate, compromise, internalize motivation, develop self-direction and become autonomous, responsible members of the group.

Usher's Music Industry Leadership 101: Online blended and career focused elective course that teaches skills necessary in the Marketing Career Pathway. Students are highly engaged since the course is built around a contemporary pop artist. Marketing skills, such as branding, the importance of marketing, career exploration, career readiness, and leadership and teamwork in the music industry, are embedded in the content. Each lesson provides learning outcomes and culminating performance-based projects.

Smart Horizons: Online career based program that prepares students for a career. Students select their career credential, ensuring they see their learning as applicable to their life goals. Learning is personalized and students have an opportunity to earn a credentialed career certificate. As the work of the grant progresses, community businesses will be invited to help assist students in developing strong role models and further opportunities for career exploration within their community.

Contemporary Learning Institutes: Teachers in the institute will begin to transform their classrooms by providing a student centered, project based approach using a range of technologically advanced tools to engage their students in authentic problem solving. Teachers will employ strategies that foster the creative thinking process. Classroom walkthroughs of these sites will show engaged, motivated students learning in a collaborative environment. The cohort teachers' classrooms will morph into demonstration sites for others to see how they are incorporating contemporary learning in their classrooms thus developing a culture of learning from one another and sharing ideas.

The Contemporary Learning Institute is designed to be a blended learning experience for all of the educators. The educators will engage in a Pre-Institute session which is designed to introduce each of the institutes that the teachers will have the opportunity to participate in during the six year grant period. The institutes are:

- Social Emotional Learning
- Authentic Problem Solving
- Fostering Creativity
- Re-Igniting the Learner Within
- Globally Connected Learning

Goals of the Grant

Learning RE-Engineered will:

1. Increase the graduation rates of students due to re-engagement efforts and academic success.
2. Increase the attendance rates of students due to newfound academic success.
3. Decrease the dropout rates of students due to re-engagement efforts and academic success.
4. Decrease the discipline referrals of students due to re-engagement and motivation efforts.
5. Decrease the suspension rates of students due to re-engagement and motivation efforts.
6. Decrease the transfer rates of students due to re-engagement efforts.
7. Facilitate teacher growth as they demonstrate content and skills acquired through the teaching institute.