

ABSTRACT

Project Title: System for Educator Effectiveness Development (SEED)

Rural, K-12 teachers get dynamic, blended learning professional development (PD) linked directly to the teacher evaluation system through SEED. Innovation Coaches facilitate SEED's two main PD components (1- an interactive online bank of resources called the SEED PAK; 2- blended Teacher Learning Communities). SEED invigorates teachers as learners in a manner that translates to students who are highly engaged in 21st Century skills and concepts. Goals include: 1) Successfully implement and continually improve SEED project in 30 NW BOCES schools during a four year period; 2) Improve principal engagement in teacher professional growth and support of teachers; 3) Increase rural access to and use of current best-practices and up-to-date content knowledge; 4) Support teachers in successfully implementing SEED practices and content; 5) Improve student achievement; and 6) Improve student engagement. The SEED project contributes to the research base for the effects of PD on student achievement and teacher practice. Based on promising practices of change in blended learning teacher PD and its hypothesized impact on principal engagement in teacher professional growth, teacher access to evidence-based best practices, and student achievement and engagement, we will employ a randomized block design among seven school districts and 30 schools that make up the NW BOCES. We expect to see increases in principal, teacher and student outcomes, controlling for baseline demographics and school level achievement. This randomized control design will allow us to test impact of SEED after two years in comparison to a control group. The primary analytic approach is latent growth curve analysis in a hierarchical linear modeling framework. SEED advances the teacher evaluation reform movement by linking evaluation to high quality PD.