Boston Teacher Leadership Certificate Program

Building Leadership Capacity

Successful school leaders are increasingly turning to teachers to share ownership of school improvement and reform. Yet even accomplished teachers may not have the leadership skills needed to assume new roles, and principals cannot always call upon the same few “volunteers.” This leadership development program offers school leaders a perfect opportunity to “build their bench.”

Read what principals are saying...

Leadership generally is not one of the skill sets that teachers acquire though their preparation programs, but teacher leadership is a vital ingredient in school improvement. A school leader can create the systems and structures that allow teachers to exercise leadership, but it is more difficult to find the time, space and resources to teach them how to go about leading effectively. BTLC courses are a great way to “fill the toolboxes” of the teacher leaders in your school. Once a key cohort of Edison teachers participated in the Teacher Leadership and using Data Courses we noted positive changes in the way all of our teacher teams functioned from grade-level Common Planning Time to the Instructional Leadership Team.

-Mary Driscoll, Principal
Edison K-8 School, Brighton

The Kenny School teachers and the Kenny School have gained a tremendous knowledge base on how to look at data and have the data inform teaching practices. We have had a number of teachers go through the BTLC courses. These teachers have been empowered by the work in the courses. They have all taken on leadership roles at the school, leading teams of teachers to analyze and interpret data. All now serve as committee heads and all serve on the ILT. When we had a short turn-around time to look at the data and develop our SchoolStat presentation, we were able to meet our deadline. Members had the language and background to have the conversations to develop the Quality School Plan. We received high praise for our presentation.

-Suzanne Federspiel, Principal
Kenny School, Dorchester

Additional comments...

• I wanted to let you know how powerful it has been to have 4 of [our school’s] teachers enrolled in the Teacher Leadership course currently underway. The teachers are on 3 different grade level teams and each of those team’s meetings have been positively impacted by the learning coming from the course. While I have always encouraged and sought to cultivate teacher leadership at the Edison I cannot think of anything that has had as much impact in so short a time as having teachers participate in the course.

• I was thrilled to see both [team leaders] really step up their leadership skills this year by taking on an active role and gathering, analyzing and presenting data to their teams in a coherent and organized manner. Since this was [our school’s] first year participating in the Academic Achievement Framework (AAF) network, [one of these teachers’] work in particular was very helpful to the process.

• I am confident that [my data team leader] has learned a lot through taking this course- she has talked about some of the things you have covered... Meeting with the principal to discuss data and then present or prepare whole school documents [was] also helpful.

For more information, please visit www.teachers21.org/TLR
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