

Are you interested in joining a group of professionals committed to helping students better understand, remember and reuse the information they read? Then you need to apply to be a part of ESU #1 Project LIFE: Literacy Is For Everyone, Part 2.

Who is eligible: Any 5th – 8th grade teacher in the ESU 1 service area.

This Application packet explains the materials that must be part of your application. Questions may be sent to ahill@esu1.org or you may contact Amy Hill at Educational Service Unit #1 at 402-287-2061.

Project LIFE 2 is supported by a grant from the Improving Teacher Quality: State Grants Program. The core partners include Wayne State College, Winnebago Public School, and the K-12 school districts served by Educational Service Unit #1. Project LIFE 2 is a continuation of training that focuses on improving student achievement in reading by working with middle level (grades 5-8) teachers, specifically in the areas of analyzing nonfiction text, vocabulary, questioning and reading comprehension.

At least **two** 5-8th grade teachers, in any content area from the same district need to participate, and each teacher must have the support of her/his school administration. Documentation of this support is provided by completing the Administrative Support Form.

Participants are expected to attend training on June 5, 2008 with Dr. Cathy Collins Block and John Mangieri in Norfolk, NE in addition to reading and reflection of professional resources. Reflection will involve on-line discussion using a wiki and blog. Teachers will participate in small learning communities to provide support and expertise to one another. Each teacher will design reading strategy lessons, examine student work, videotape lessons, be observed and observe peer teaching, engage in self-reflection and create personal action plans. Teachers will be required to be observed by and observe a peer teaching at least once a semester (in their district and/or outside the district). *See additional summary highlighting Participant Requirements for Project LIFE 2.

There is no cost to the individual to attend the summer and school year training and follow-up. Materials, meals, contracted payments and substitute teacher expense will be covered by the grant.

If you are interested in participating in this exciting opportunity, please complete the attached forms and return promptly. **Registration is limited.**

The completed Application and Administrative Support forms are due by **March 14, 2008** to:

Amy Hill, ESU #1
211 Tenth Street
Wakefield, NE 68784

Participant Requirements for Project LIFE, Part 2

This list may not be inclusive of all training and teacher responsibilities as a member of Project LIFE 2.

As a participant in Project LIFE 2, you agree to the following commitments:

Work collaboratively with at least one other teacher from your district and with colleagues from other districts.

Plan, teach, observe and provide feedback on classroom lessons.

Attend training on June 5, 2008 in Norfolk with presenters Dr. Cathy Collins Block and John Mangieri on Vocabulary Instruction.

Attend additional training in the area of analyzing nonfiction text, vocabulary, questioning and/or reading comprehension strategies.

Participate in a group project where you research and present one reading strategy.

In addition:

Monthly: (Individually and in small learning teams)

Read, reflect and respond electronically to professional resources.

Plan and implement one lesson using strategies learned.

Select 3 students to monitor for student learning growth.

Each nine weeks:

Videotape one lesson and complete a self- reflection.

Each semester:

Observe a colleague teaching a strategy lesson in your own district in addition to outside your district. Complete an observations document.

Have a colleague observe your classroom teaching of a lesson.

Project LIFE: Literacy Is For Everyone, Part 2 – 2008 Application

A complete application form includes:

A. Teacher Applicant Information (Must be a 5 – 8th grade teacher)

- a. Cover Page (including required signature)
- b. Responses to the following Questions (Your response is limited to 2 pages total.)

1. Teacher Leadership:

Serving as a teacher leader is an important aspect of your participation in Project LIFE 2.

Please describe the key challenges faced by you and others who teach students in grades 5-8th in your school as you strive to provide challenging courses and curricula that enable students to meet high standards.

2. Literacy Knowledge:

Project LIFE 2 will include rich and challenging reading content which is designed to enhance your understanding of content area literacy and how best to teach middle age learners.

Please assess your knowledge for teaching literacy at your current grade level. Describe your interest in expanding your content knowledge, particularly in use of nonfiction text, comprehension and questioning strategies.

3. Commitment

Self-reflection will be a key component in Project LIFE 2, as will collaborative planning and observation of teaching.

Please address your willingness to work with other educators in small learning teams to examine teaching practices and student learning.

B. One Additional Grade 5-8th Teacher Who Will Participate From Your School

A main component of Project LIFE 2 will be teacher collaboration. At least two middle level (Grades 5-8) educators need to apply from the same district.

- Include both teacher cover pages, question responses and administrative support forms in the sent application.

C. Administrative Support Form (including required signatures)

Applications should be typed. Completed applications must be received in the ESU 1 central office by **March 14, 2008**. Please send your completed application to:

Amy Hill
Educational Service Unit #1
211 Tenth Street
Wakefield, NE 68784

**Project LIFE: Literacy Is For Everyone
Teacher Application Cover Page**

Name: _____

School: _____

District: _____

School Address: _____

School Phone: _____ School Fax: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

Current Grade Level/Position: _____

Average # Students per Class: _____

Years at current school: _____ Number of years teaching _____

Undergraduate Degree: _____

(institution, year, major)

Graduate Education: _____

(institution, major, hours earned, degrees awarded)

Nebraska Educator License Endorsements: _____

Would you be interested in graduate credit if it were available? ____ Yes ____ No

Applicant Agreement: I understand that I am making a **commitment** to attend summer & school year training and play a leadership role in the area of reading in my school, district and ESU. I will engage in classroom-based observation and school-year feedback sessions, and I will cooperate with evaluators who may need to observe my class, interview me, or have access to the achievement data of my students.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Due Date: This application is due **March 14, 2008** to **Amy Hill, ESU #1**

