

Strategy Guidance for use of funds under The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009



Strategy Number 10

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Science Standards Implementation

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Statement of need:

Developing a deep understanding of scientific concepts and skills in scientific literacy is essential for all students in order to prepare our future workforce and to prepare citizens to participate as critical thinkers and decision makers in society. Florida's new science standards, including access points for students with significant cognitive disabilities, are more instructionally demanding than the former standards. Florida's new science course descriptions are planned for State Board adoption in May; this means they should be what guides instruction in all science classrooms in 2009-2010.

New assessments and instructional materials aligned to the standards will be in place in 2011-2012. These new standards require teaching to mastery; at each grade level, students must be proficient on every standard prior to moving to the next level. Teachers will be required to use instructional methods that teach each concept in far greater depth for lifelong understanding. Florida's high school course descriptions are much more specific and built from these new standards. Teachers must provide instruction aligned to these course descriptions. Florida plans to implement end-of-course exams based on these course descriptions.

Requirements:

Professional Development

Professional development for instructional leaders and teachers from every district including:

- Standards-based Instruction,
- RtI for Differentiation in instruction,
- Disciplinary Literacy,
- Lesson Study/Professional Learning Communities
- Acceleration Mechanisms
- Effective use of technology
- Use of course descriptions to guide instruction, and
- Use of appropriate data to drive instruction.

Utilizing:

- the professional development modules produced by Florida PROMiSE
- Florida's standards database,
- Florida's course descriptions, and
- the Curriculum Planning and Learning Management System (CPALMS) at:
<http://www.floridastandards.org/index.aspx>.

Recommended Participants

- District science, exceptional student, and English Language Learner specialists.
 - School Teams from all Title I schools including the administrative curriculum leader, lead science teachers from each grade level and/or each course, lead exceptional student educator from each grade or grade cluster, lead English Language Learner educator from each grade or grade cluster, and lead Lesson Study educator from each school, grade cluster, or grade level.
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- All exceptional student science educators
- All English Language Learner science educators

Recommended Facilitators

Expert science educators who participated in the development of Florida's new science standards, professional development modules, or both and have been recommended for this purpose.

Fees include: daily consulting fee, travel, per diem, and materials unless other contractual agreements are made between the facilitator and the district(s).

Recommended Classroom Resources

Updating science classrooms with recommended resources, lab equipment, and technology to provide a teaching and learning environment conducive to academic success.

Additional Professional Development Opportunities

- [FCR-STEM Secondary Cohort Training](#)
- [FCR-STEM Mathematics and Science Leadership Conference](#)
- [Practice of Science Teacher Workshop](#)

Funding Sources:

- State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF)
- Instructional materials funds
- For Professional Development for Teachers
- For teachers in title I schools, Title I stimulus funds
- For exceptional student educators, IDEA stimulus funds
- For technology and teacher training for use of technology, Title II-D
- PROMiSE (participating districts)
- Title II-A (participating districts)