



Universal Design for Learning: Connecting students with disabilities to the Common Core Professional Learning Community and LEA Technical Assistance Opportunity

December 2013

Introduction

During the 2013-2014 School Year, the OSSE Division of Specialized Education, in partnership with the Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST), will host a professional development opportunity for LEAs on the topic of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). This opportunity will focus on using the UDL framework to provide access for all students, especially students with disabilities, to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in the general education classroom. The format of this training will consist of one all-day kick-off training, held at OSSE, with five additional one-hour coaching sessions in LEA clusters. These coaching sessions will be enhanced through a topic specific webinar series. LEA teams will be divided into clusters based on need, geographic location, grade levels taught, etc. in order to form effective professional learning community (PLC) teams. In addition, all PLC teams will be brought together monthly in the State Instructional Community of Practice (CoP) to discuss best practices.

The kick-off training is designed to build participants' understanding of the UDL framework and methodology, and will be facilitated by a national UDL expert. The 5 follow-up coaching sessions will function as a PLC, where LEA teams within each cluster will share best practices, offer support, and build capacity. UDL experts will facilitate these sessions at LEA sites within each cluster. During the webinar series, LEA teams will focus on topics supporting access to the CCSS. Throughout this training series, participants will be expected to try out new learned strategies.

About CAST

CAST is a nonprofit research and development organization that works to expand learning opportunities for all individuals through Universal Design for Learning. CAST has earned international recognition for its innovative contributions to educational products, classroom practices, and policies. CAST's staff includes specialists in learning sciences, technology design, teacher professional development, and more. For more information, see: www.cast.org.

Goals

- LEA teams will build a strong foundational knowledge of UDL framework and how it supports the teaching of the CCSS to students with disabilities in the general education setting
 - LEA teams will identify, use, and monitor at least two UDL strategies that help students with disabilities access the CCSS
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Requirements

LEA Teams

OSSE is looking for 10 LEA teams, consisting of 3 to 5 members for each LEA team. Each team must include: a) LEA Executive or Designee, b) 1 Instructional Director/Coach (or the equivalent), c) 1 Special Education Teacher, and d) 1 General Education Teacher. Additional members may be selected from the following positions: Special Education Coordinator (or equivalent), Additional General Education Teacher, Additional Special Education Teacher, Administrator, Other Relevant Staff Member (specified).

LEA Commitments

LEA Teams must commit to the following required project activities:

- Attendance at the all-day kick-off event on January 14, 2014 at OSSE
- Attendance at all 5 coaching sessions, at least 3 members of the core LEA Team must be present for the entire session
- Participation in all components of webinar series 3 required webinars offered in between coaching sessions
- Participation in the State's instructional CoP; The meetings will be from 10am until 12pm at OSSE on the following dates: February 20, March 20, April 24, May 15, and June 20
- Commitment to be a demonstration site to other LEAs across the District for the 2014-15 school year
- Commitment to participating in the State's instructional CoP

Cost

This project is fully funded by OSSE. There is no cost to LEAs; however, it is expected that all participating LEAs commit the necessary time, resources, and energy to help make this project successful.

Next Steps

Each interested LEA must complete the attached materials and submit by the deadline of close of business January 2, 2014 to be considered for this project. Letters will be accepted December 6, 2013 through January 2, 2014. Decisions will be made by close of business January 6, 2014.

Pre-Training Knowledge Assessment

Members of your LEA Team must take a brief survey, asking about their current level of knowledge with regard to UDL and the CCSS. The link to the survey will be sent upon receipt of your LEA's letter of interest.

Each LEA will designate a point of contact from their LEA Team who will serve as the liaison with OSSE for this training series.

LEA Letter of Intent

LEA: _____

Campus (if applicable): _____

Please designate a point of contact from your LEA Team who will serve as the liaison with OSSE for this training series. POC: _____

Participating Staff

LEA Executive or Designee

Name: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____

Instructional Director/Coach (or equivalent)

Name: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____

General Education Teacher

Name: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____

Special Education Teacher

Name: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____

Other Staff

1

Name: _____ Email: _____

Position: _____ Signature: _____

2

Name: _____ Email: _____

Position: _____ Signature: _____

Letter of Commitment from LEA Leader:

I, _____ will ensure that my LEA meet all of the requirements including:

- Attending the all-day kick-off event on January 14, 2014 at OSSE
- Attending all 5 coaching sessions, at least 3 members of the core LEA Team must be present for the entire session
- Participating in all components of webinar series 3 required webinars offered in between coaching sessions
- Participating in the State's instructional CoP; The meetings will be from 10am until 12pm at OSSE on the following dates: February 20, March 20, April 24, May 15, and June 20
- Committing to be a demonstration site to other LEAs across the District for the 2014-15 school year
- Committing to participating in the State's instructional CoP

Signature_____ Date_____

Applications must be received before close of business Thursday, January 2, 2014.

**Please submit Letters of Interest and Commitment via email to: osse.tta@dc.gov with subject line:
Letter of Interest and Commitment submission LEA UDL training series.**



Training and Technical Assistance
Division of Specialized Education
Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)

Government of the District of Columbia
810 First Street, NE, 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
Main: (202) 727-6436
Fax: (202) 741-0227

osse.tta@dc.gov

www.osse.dc.gov
