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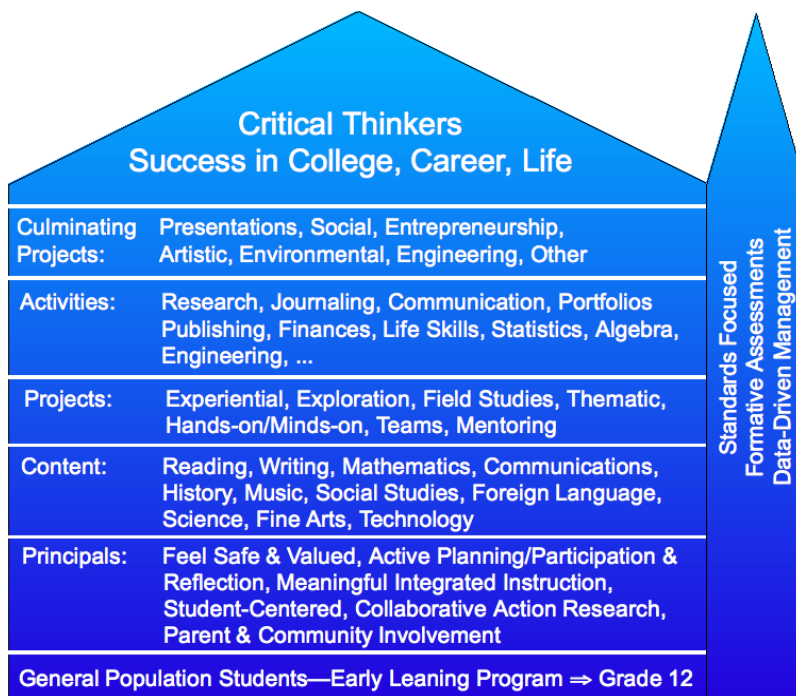
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Public and Private Schools Apply for i3 Grant

Enumclaw, Washington (May 27, 2010) – Cedar River Academy has joined with Ferndale, Richland, and Griffin school districts as the founding members of the Washington Consortium for Student-Centered Education, to apply for a US Department of Education Innovation Grant. The Investing in Innovation Fund is designed to provide competitive grants to applicants with a record of improving student achievement and attainment.

Student-Centered Education Model



“This project will allow educators to compare the traditional education model with the student-centered model, as they impact student performance”, said Robert Hughes, Member of the Washington State Board of Education. “The education model we have used in the United States for decades has reached its design limits and is not preparing our children to competitively enter the modern business world.”

The grant application was filed with the Department of Education on May 11, 2010 by the Ferndale School District acting as the lead agency representing the Consortium.

The Student-Centered Education Model project is designed to demonstrate and study the effects of a research-based, thematic active-learning education model, compared to a parallel traditional education model. Students' parents will be given the option to enroll children in the Student-Centered Education Model school within the district, or the traditional school. The results of each model will continually be evaluated and compared.

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If awarded, the i3 grant will give school districts the opportunity to collaborate as they extend and refine active-learning initiatives. The project is designed to allow parents and students to choose between student-centered education and traditional education for their children, without economic or logistic impact.

The project will serve more than 17,000 students and to demonstrate that it is possible to create a replicable active-learning model school that can deliver very high graduation rates, produce highly prepared graduates who successfully complete university studies, and operate within existing public school budgets.

Enumclaw's Cedar River Academy is being transformed into a model school to transfer knowledge and provide the Consortium open communications, Internet-based video observation, teacher and principal training, and project management services. Educators will be encouraged to register to observe classroom activities, access the project's work products, participate in collaborative forums, visit the model school, compare performance data to their own school environments, talk with design experts, attend model teaching programs and seminars, make recommendations, and suggest model adjustments. This collaborative process will enable participating districts to continuously improve schools and better serve and prepare children. The composition of the Consortium may change as the project evolves and districts match the project's objectives with their school improvement programs.

The five-year project, including a one-year readiness preparedness phase, will be guided by an advisory board representing leading educators in Washington State, including Robert Hughes, Member of the Washington State Board of Education; Dr. Alan Burke, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, State of Washington, Dr. Gregory J. Benner, Associate Professor, Education Program, University of Washington; Greg Lobdell, Director of Research, Center for Educational Effectiveness; Dr. Rick Maloney, Member, Board of Directors, Washington State School Directors Association; and Roger Franklin, Founder of Cedar River Academy.

The project is designed to assure every student is presented with the opportunity and support to make continuous progress towards mastery of reading, writing, communications, mathematics, social studies, foreign language, fine arts, music, and physical education standards and goals. The i3 grant applicants believe the project will demonstrate that a student-centered, active-learning curriculum, aligned to state standards, is sufficient preparation for Washington State mandated summative tests, without a narrow focus on preparing students for these tests. Moreover, the applicants expect to expend no more than the Washington State per-student allocation, except for start-up investments, to achieve these results. The Consortium school districts will operate their study schools and be responsible for maintaining the integrity of the two education models during the term of the project, and thereafter.

“It is exciting to observe students construct deep knowledge about complex topics that interest them”, said Roger Franklin, Founder of Cedar River Academy. “The Student-Centered Education Model supports students as they build knowledge while enjoying the learning process. We are preparing students for successful college experiences and other career choices. Everyone should want 100% of our kids to graduate high school and be prepared for college.”

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About Cedar River Academy, Ltd.

Cedar River Academy is a non-sectarian private elementary school located in the J.J. Smith Elementary building, at 1640 Fell Street, Enumclaw, Washington 98022. At Cedar River Academy, students learn to think at high-levels as they analyze information and solve problems in multiple ways. Academy teachers support individual students as they learn to read, write, master mathematics, become fluent in a foreign language, appreciate arts and music, and present their work. Cedar River Academy's website may be found at <http://www.cedarriveracademy.com/>.

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