Actively Learn from Your Colleagues in CFE’s Study Group Program

What are CFE Study Groups?

Study Groups partner veteran educators with CPS peers who want to acquire and adapt new teaching strategies and instructional approaches. Participants engage in a collaborative, supportive environment while sharing best practices and discussing experiences. Study Group members earn Professional Development Hours and receive grant funds to put toward implementation.

What are the benefits?

- **Participate in a PLC** centered around a specific project or teaching strategy.
- **Acquire exciting new methods** for adaptation and implementation of your group’s focal work.
- **Meaningfully connect** with like-minded colleagues from across the district.
- **Receive $300 and 15 PDHs** for resources and professional advancement.

Ready to Get Started?

**How to Apply:**
- Review the Study Group options listed on the reverse and/or on our website: [CFEgrants.org](CFEgrants.org)
- Select your top two Study Group choices, based on your own interests as well as the needs of your students.
- Complete and submit the brief online application by **11:59pm on Monday, April 27, 2020.**

**Key Dates & Deadlines**

- **Application Available**: Monday, March 23, 2020
- **Application Due**: Monday, April 27, 2020
- **Notifications Sent**: Mid-May 2020
- **Meetings & Implementation**: June to November 2020
District-Wide Study Groups

Cross-Disciplinary
 Teach to THEIR Intelligences: Using Psychology to Design Instruction
Explore the process and impact that trauma has on student learning, progress, and achievement. Team Members will analyze an expert text and discuss in-class solutions and strategies to engaging students using a trauma-informed pedagogy.
Subjects: C-D, SS • Grades: 6-12 • Coach: Ray Kinzie

Purging Paper: Teaching Technology through Virtual Student Portfolios
Join us for a technological makeover with “Seesaw”, a virtual portfolio app that allows students to showcase their own learning. In this group, you will learn how to utilize all that Seesaw has to offer, including student-created portfolios, family outreach, differentiated instruction, individualized assessment, and grading practices.
Subjects: C-D, ST • Grades: PreK-3 • Coach: Natalie Sabbath

Engaging Students in Environmental Education & Sustainability
This group will focus on integrating sustainable and environmental practices into daily classroom routines and the overall curriculum. Learn to implement smaller classroom changes or start school-wide initiatives, all while feeling prepared to encounter huddles as you put these new practices into place.
Subjects: C-D, SC • Grades: 1-5 • Coach: Brittany Williams

The Great Books of Good Teaching
This group will elevate the traditional “book club” experience, creating a community for teachers to think about how they can use foundational, revolutionary, and transformational texts about teaching to renew and sustain themselves in their work. It is a good fit for educators who want to explore how to transform their teaching to be anti-racist and culturally-relevant, and who may not share backgrounds with their students.
Subjects: C-D, SEL • Grades: 1-12 • Coach: Dayna Heller

Language Arts
Reading and Writing the Modern Essay
This group will explore the craft of writing nonfiction by reading select pieces and drafting a piece of its own to model for students. The pieces that participating educators will produce will be shareable and discussed during meetings with an eye towards producing a final mentor text that can be used with students.
Subjects: LA, C-D • Grades: 6-12 • Coach: Brandon Barr

Performing & Visual Arts
Choice-Based Art + Teaching for Artistic Behavior (TAB)
Collaborate with other visual art educators who use Choice-Based Art + Teaching for Artistic Behavior (TAB) methodologies in their classrooms. Meetings will include discussions of texts, videos, and online resources, while sharing the group’s collective knowledge to support creating classroom environments that foster independent learning and student ownership.
Subjects: PVA, SEL • Grades: PreK-12 • Coaches: Sarah Willett & Emily Albin

Special Education
Robotics for All: Diverse Learners Communicate, Create, and Code!
This group will focus on using instructional methods for Diverse Learners with low incidence disabilities - such as visual strategies, CORE vocabulary boards, and communication boards - to effectively teach students to code programmable robots in an effort to achieve a targeted outcome.
Subjects: SP, ST • Grades: 6-12 • Coaches: Malka Frazin & Barbara Madonia

Meaningful and Manageable Data Collection
In this group, Team Members will create measurable objectives, create informative data sheets for those objectives, determine a manageable schedule for instruction and data collection, and learn how to effectively adapt instruction based on data collection results.
Subjects: SP, C-D • Grades: 6-12 • Coach: Madeline Williams

Social and Emotional Learning
Building Your SEL Toolkit
Educators across all grade levels are welcome to explore the numerous evidenced-based social and emotional learning techniques, programs, and strategies designed to support students. Team Members will develop an SEL Toolkit that will consist of topical research, teaching strategies, programs, and student activities that can be utilized to advance students’ SEL skills and improve academic outcomes.
Subjects: SEL, SP • Grades: PreK-12 • Coach: Donna Flanagan

Building Emotional Literacy With Conscious Discipline
The focus of this group is brain-based social and emotional learning that builds resilience in children, families, educators, and schools. Meetings will be guided by Dr. Becky Bailey’s text, Conscious Discipline, which will arm educators with a comprehensive classroom management program and a social-emotional learning curriculum.
Subjects: SEL, LA • Grades: 1-5 • Coach: Jessica General

De-Escalate and Co-Regulate With Mindful Self-Compassion
Using a researched-backed practice called Mindful Self-Compassion (MSC), this group will equip educators with useful tools to care for themselves and their students when challenges arise in the classroom. Participants will develop a practical understanding of MSC, and engage in a variety of classroom-friendly meditative exercises designed to promote de-escalation and co-regulation during difficult moments.
Subjects: SEL, C-D • Grades: PreK-12 • Coach: Anne Halliday

Social Studies
Using Thematic Social Studies Units to Teach Writing
In this group, teachers will use Backwards Planning to create thematic units based in research, ultimately culminating in MEL-Con writing prompts. By the end of the program cycle, Team Members will have created four thematic units, begun the process of identifying documents for each unit, and developed both summative assessment tools and MEL-Con prompts.
Subjects: SS, PBL • Grades: 9-12 • Coach: Rivanna Jihan

STEAM
Lesson Study for STEAM Educators
Lesson Study is a collaborative teacher-led planning process that allows educators to converge to conduct intentional research on content, pedagogy, and student trends. This group will focus on improving classroom instruction by strengthening educator use of the problem-solving approach where students engage in critical thinking and discussion in order to gain new learning.
Subjects: ST, MA, SC • Grades: 4-5 • Coach: Berenice Heinlein

Access to a laptop or personal device recommended
Beneficial to Cluster Program educators
School-Based Study Groups
Available to current educators from the listed schools only.

Murphy Arts ES
**Working Towards the "Write" Curriculum**
This group will work collaboratively to extract writing standards across various grade levels, and align them accordingly. We will work to ensure that writing instruction is aligned with writing standards, as well as among our grade level units.
Subjects: LA, PBL • Grades: PreK-3 • Coach: Bridget Deleshe

Lindblom Math & Science HS
**Having Culturally- Relevant Discussion that Really Matters**
This group aims to sharpen educator strategies for having culturally-relevant discussions in the classroom. Together, members will explore how classroom discussions can be conducted in an effective, rigorous, and culturally sustaining manner.
Subjects: LA, SEL • Grades: 6-12 • Coach: Aaron Talley

Lenart Gifted ES
**Talking in the Math Classroom**
Team Members will read about, discuss, and practice strategies to increase "math talk" in the elementary grades. The group will observe each others' classrooms to observe math talk implementation, ultimately providing constructive feedback to one another during debrief sessions.
Subjects: MA, SEL • Grades: 1-5 • Coach: Brenda Lisenby

Prieto Math & Science ES
**Right for Your Students’ Rights!**
This group has two primary purposes: (1) to be a place for general and Diverse Learner educators to openly engage in conversations around the development and implementation of Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), including progress monitoring and (2) for members to remain informed and current on student rights, parental rights, and educator rights, so we may most effectively advocate for students.
Subjects: SP, SEL • Grades: SPED & Inclusion K-8 • Laurie Bovino

Reilly ES
**Teach the Reader, Not the Book**
This group will engage in professional learning experiences by exploring texts that are currently used in the classroom, and begin unpacking strategies that will help deepen analysis across all texts. Members will learn reading strategies that aim to help students analyze the important aspects of a story, such as character development, internal conflict, and theme.
Subject: LA • Grades: 4-8 • Coach: Christine Asvos

Network-Based Study Groups
Available to current educators from the listed networks only.

Networks 3, 5, 6, 7
**Anti-Racism for Elementary Educators**
White educators need to understand how racism affects their interactions with students, their curricular choices, and their school policies. This group will equip members with resources to interrogate their own teaching and form groups at their schools to study and implement anti-racist practices.
Subjects: C-D, SEL • Grades: 4-8 • Coach: Hannah Nolan-Spohn

Networks 8, 9, 10, 11
**Reflective Practitioner: White Privilege & Decolonizing Pedagogy**
Team Members will engage in the difficult task of reflecting on their privilege and dismantling potential biases. Educators will expand their pedagogical toolbox, and look for opportunities to implement culturally-responsive strategies in their classrooms.
Subjects: C-D, LA • Grades: PreK-12 • Coach: Niamh Burke

Teach for America
**Daily 5 for Beginners**
This group will focus on self-care techniques and tools to help make teaching sustainable. Members will utilize the mentor text *Onward* by Elena Aguilar to actively engage in this work. The group will also engage in discussions about its work as educators, specifically through the lens of racial identity.
Subject: Sustainability • Grades: 1-12 • Coach: Stefani Stallard

Teach for America
**Sustainable Teaching After the Corps**
This group’s goal is to create a community comprised of people of color, focusing on skills that help educators continue to further in their profession. Members will read *Onward: Cultivating Emotional Resilience in Educators*, reflecting on their identities as educators of color. Through this group, a strong support system will be developed, so its participants can continue helping one another experience sustainability in the profession.
Subjects: Sustainability • Grades: PreK-12 Educators of Color • Coach: Angel Gonzalez

Questions?
Contact the CFE Team at CFE@CFEgrants.org or 312-670-2323