Description of Dissemination Projects, FY2010-11

Wickliffe Community School

The Ohio Visible Learning Project will develop curriculum and assessment products for other schools to use to expand children's achievement. There will be two products that teachers, administrators, district staff developers, and parents in other schools can use: a book (Visible Learning: Using Imaginative Forms of Assessment to Expand Children's Achievement) and a companion DVD. The book will be edited by a project manager and authored by classroom teachers and parents who were trained in three major skill areas over the last three years by Project Zero staff at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education.

Following are the three major teacher skill areas for increasing children's learning across academic disciplines: 1) Classroom-based documentation techniques; 2) Using protocols inspired by other fields such as medicine as a way to imaginatively assess children's products for improving children's learning and teacher's observational skills; 3) Forming effective teacher inquiry and learning communities that focus on expanding children's learning in both content and process learning. This book is not a book on theory or research. It will be a user-friendly concrete guide that demonstrates how documentation assessment techniques, protocols, and teacher inquiry groups can be used to deepen and expand children's learning across disciplines.

Horizon Science Academy

HSA will develop curriculum and assessment materials based upon its unique and highly successful practices which include the methodology and results of implementing a writing and reading competency course for 9th graders, mandatory tutoring, Saturday school and a new Summer Academy enrichment program and JROTC. Success will be gauged by the number of requests for material and information and the number of new schools replicating some of our best practices. Its best practices include careful monitoring of each individual student and curriculum organized around global themes to ensure each student acquires and applies core concepts and principles from math, science, technology, social studies, language arts, communication, creative arts, vocation and practical living skills to real life situations they may encounter.

Toledo School for the Arts

Over the course of 10 years TSA has improved student achievement by offering students creative opportunities to achieve personal and academic success through arts-based learning and curriculum. Its curriculum integrates the arts into academic areas like social studies, math and science. By the creation and assembling of lesson plans created and implemented by TSA teachers, this project will capture the instructional methodology used by TSA, so that other teachers may implement the process that keeps students interested in school and able to perform at high levels on achievement tests and indicators. Quantitative and qualitative data will be collected from TSA teachers to evaluate the effectiveness of workshop practice and the lesson plans created for this project.

Citizens' Academy

Citizens' Academy will document and create a series of dissemination presentations based on its highly effective, integrated use of assessment data to drive curriculum development, instruction, professional development and teacher evaluation. Project participants will learn the value of

collecting nationally-normed, value-added assessment data three times annually to chart student, classroom and grade-level progress annually and during school enrollment. The project will also show how this data can be augmented by internally-developed short cycle assessments at the end of each unit, and how to use this data to develop and align curricula to content standards and students' unique needs. The school's approach emphasizes weekly grade-level team meetings, on-going teacher coaching and in-classroom instructional modeling, plus unannounced, informal teacher evaluations in addition to scheduled, formal evaluations to provide teachers a more comprehensive assessment. In the project staff will identify and present key academic and organizational practices through presentations, workshops and other contacts with collaborating charter and district organizations locally and throughout Ohio.

FY09-10 (ending in FY10)
Two dissemination awards continued from the previous fiscal year.

Auglaize Educational Academy disseminated its techniques for using new technology, such as Google Docs, Airset, I Safe, Moodle, ePortfolios and Wiki blogs, to increase the capability and performance of teachers.

The Intergenerational School (TIS) in Cleveland not only has a promising practice but will shortly have the research to establish that they indeed have a best practice. The term 'intergenerational' refers to the progressive multi-age, developmental and individualized curriculum, as well as to the consistent engagement of students with community members of all ages. TIS believes that seniors, college students, and others can serve as precious resources to bolster the learning process for children. The school, rated Effective or Excellent over the last five years, is developing materials to disseminate its model through on-site and Web-based professional development sessions on the various elements of the TIS educational model. Four dissemination applicants were not funded. Final reports will be due from both these schools, with samples of any items created by the project.