

2002-2003 PDS Study Group Inquiry Projects

Proposal – Bartlett High School –

Research Question/Problem and Relationship to Overall School Improvement

Bartlett High School is engaged in a multi-year smaller-learning-communities project. The goal is to group the students in ways that will permit Bartlett faculty and staff to ensure that “no child is left behind” or gets lost in the large-school crowds. The ideal will be that every student at Bartlett High School has meaningful interactions with at least one adult and with several peers every day of every academic year.

One significant benefit of the smaller-learning-communities design will be that faculty and staff can more closely monitor the “myriad ways in which young minds differ” and design ways to support those minds as they develop to their fullest. This proposal focuses on BHS faculty’s becoming familiar with the work of Dr. Mel Levine and his All Kinds of Minds Institute. The BHS study group will serve as a follow-up to a workshop several faculty participated in during Summer 2002, which explored current research from the neurosciences. Dr. Levine’s work begins where the neuroscience research leaves off—at the school room door, and more specifically, at the desks of individual students. One goal of the study group will be to explore the possibility of getting involved in the professional development opportunities offered by the All Kinds of Minds Institute, e.g., conferences, the Schools Attuned Exemplary Schools Network, online discussion groups, and possibly the On-Demand Schools Attuned Program.

Plan of Inquiry

Step One:

Who: Bartlett High School PTEP mentors, Chuck Fannin (BHS principal), Kate O’Dell (BHS Faculty-in-Residence). If other BHS faculty or staff wish to participate, they will be included on a space-available basis).

When: November 1, 2002 to May 30, 2003

What: The study group will meet once a month. Members will read together the book *A Mind at a Time*. They will also subscribe to the free online newsletter. Members will be expected to try the recommendations from the book, use the resources online, and reflect with the group on what they’ve tried.

If any study group member wishes to receive UAA credit, Kate O’Dell will be instructor-of-record for a 500-level course, or, if the individual wishes graded, graduate credit, O’Dell will facilitate these arrangements.

The study group will have three goals:

1. Every member will have implemented a plan for “Management by Profile” for at least one of their students. The study group member will document the plan and the results of its implementation as a case study.
2. The group will design a plan for expanding BHS participation in the professional development opportunities offered by the All Kinds of Minds Institute. These discussions will also involve Dr. Robb Boyer from the Anchorage School District Training and Professional Development Office. This plan will be submitted to Chuck Fannin as a proposal for BHS professional development during the 2003-2004 school year.
3. The group will contribute their knowledge to the BHS school-wide development of smaller learning communities.

Funding for the Project:

Item	Amount	Total
Purchase materials (20 copies of <i>A Mind At a Time</i> @ \$26 each; one set of the audiocassette tapes @\$103.00, etc.)	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Study Group member stipends (total amount will be divided evenly among the members who participate fully)	\$500.00	\$1,500.00
Travel: One study group member to a Schools Attuned Exemplary School.	\$500.00	\$2,000.00