

Welcome!

Congratulations! You have been selected to be a member of a Collaborative Teacher Team, also known as an Inquiry Team. According to the *Inquiry Team Handbook*, “[T]he purpose of Inquiry Teams [is] for teams of educators to look closely at the practices that are not working for particular children, to make a strategic change, to evaluate the impact of that change, and then to use what was learned to experiment with system-level changes to bring more students into the sphere of success on an ongoing basis” (6-7). This is not an easy task, but it is an important one. Your accomplishments will inspire other future Teams to benefit students in similar ways. How does all of this work?

The Inquiry Process

- 1) **Target Population:** Review course assessments and standardized tests in order to select a **target population**. This is a group of students whose members have not sufficiently developed a particular skill. Perhaps you will choose results from ACUITY, the PSAT, or the Regents Exam to identify your target population.
- 2) **Sub-skill:** Identify a **sub-skill** of concern. This is what you are helping the students to improve.
- 3) **S.M.A.R.T. Goal:** Develop a **S.M.A.R.T. goal**. This seems simple but is actually one of the more challenging parts of this process. A suitable goal is specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound. The goal should reflect a gain of at least 1.5 years of progress within a single year.
- 4) **Assessments:** Develop or identify **assessments** that can be used to track your progress in moving your students toward the S.M.A.R.T. goal. These will include a benchmark assessment so that you have a starting point and can better measure progress. It is recommended that Teams use no fewer than four assessments.
- 5) **Lesson Plans:** Create or modify **lesson plans** that will help students develop the sub-skill.
- 6) **Data-driven Instruction:** Collect and examine the **data** that results from each administered assessment. Modify subsequent plans based on these data, and be able to explain how and why you made the changes you did.
- 7) **Making Results Public:** Upload your results on the **DOE Web site**.

Representing LaGuardia

We appreciate your efforts to benefit your students and colleagues as part of a Collaborative Teacher Team. Your work will be showcased in our school but also in the City as a whole as representative of the excellent teaching that is going on at LaGuardia Arts High School. Thank you!