I3 Grant Final Report

Educational Foundation of Lake County

**Evidence of how your relationship with the district has changed and deepened through this work:** This grant opportunity has created a spring board with the superintendent, assistant superintendent and the curriculum department. We have been approached by the superintendent to assist with designing, developing and implementing a Kindergarten readiness program. We have meet with the superintendent and assistant superintendent to drill down the requirements and financial needs to implement the readiness program.

**Evidence of actions or efforts initiated in the project that have or are expected to improve instruction, or what was learned in the effort:** District staff facilitated the second evening training outlined in the timeline we provided in our initial proposal on March 5th from 5:00-7:00 pm. During this session, teachers reported back successes and challenges in implementing conferring strategies. Successes included having more time to work with students individually in order to learn more about their reading processes and behaviors. For example, teachers shared they were able to better understand how their students monitored their comprehension by listening to students read and ask questions about their books. Teachers captured instructional notes on the conferring form in order to track student progress and growth. The conferring form provided anecdotal data to support teachers in planning further instruction. This tool was a major success in ensuring teachers could track growth over time. A challenge noted by many teachers was the time needed to continue to practice their new learning. Teachers requested that district staff explore options for providing additional evening trainings as they found the time to reflect on their learning to be invaluable.

Another challenge noted by the district team is the need to continue the learning and success of this initiative as training and onsite coaching visits were scheduled in March, April, and May were canceled due to Covid-19.

**Plan for sustaining the district and foundation partnership in working toward improved instruction:** We will continue to work with the curriculum department to implement the authentic literacy program into four more schools for the 2020-2021 school year. The four schools that are currently participating in the literacy program have agreed to be coaches for the next set of schools to introduce this program into their curriculum.

As we receive classroom requests from teachers for curriculum related projects, we will work the curriculum department to determine if the project is a good fit or if there is already a project in place that they can duplicate.

**Please also indicate if and how project activities could not be completed or were adjusted due to current school closures related to student health and safety:** Our two training sessions were completed before the mandatory shut down of all schools and district offices. The program adjustments that were learned at the second meeting could not be implemented during the school shut down. Thus, the program was put on hold for four weeks until classes resumed.