

Hi Allan,

You are receiving this letter because we are very interested in your school participating in the writing pilot. This year, Eugene 4J will have the opportunity to pilot the Being a Writer Program by the Developmental Studies Center. The bond measure has provided funds for the district to buy a supplemental writing program for our schools. This summer and fall, a group of teachers and administrators had the opportunity to examine and evaluate four writing programs: Being A Writer, Voices, Lucy Caulkins, and Write Source. Being a Writer was overwhelmingly the favorite with over 85% of the evaluators choosing it as their first or second choice.

The Being a Writer program focuses on social/emotional learning and the development of a community of writers. In addition, they support collaborative learning and classroom talk, best practices in writing, and good teacher modeling. We are offering the pilot to four schools, one in each region in order to achieve representation across the district. Professional developers from the Developmental Studies Center (DSC) will conduct onsite and online training throughout the pilot.

Participants: If you choose to pilot, the entire school does not need to participate. Teacher teams, cross-grade level teams, SPED and/or individuals may choose to pilot the program. We need enough teachers participating in your building to make the pilot effective. It is important that principals are supportive of the pilot and participate in the professional development offered.

Professional Development: in December, DSC will conduct a full day of professional development training for all participants prior to the pilot. This day will include roughly three hours of training followed by three hours of planning so that teachers are prepared to begin.

Eight weeks into the pilot, teachers will participate in a half-day modified lesson study lead by the DSC staff. The length of the pilot is three months but we hope that teachers will use the materials for the remainder of the year.

Timeline: Please let us know as soon as possible whether you choose to participate in this pilot or not. We would like to start the pilot sometime in January. We will need names of teachers and grade levels for those participating sometime in November. This will give us enough time to order materials.

Thanks for considering this opportunity.

Kathy Luiten