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Six schools awarded Vision 2015 grants

Money used to identify, fix problem areas

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Six Delaware schools have been awarded grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to implement changes in support of the Vision 2015 school reform plan.

Schools that joined the Vision Network in 2008 were eligible to apply for the money. As part of each school's first year in the network, leaders identified reform focus areas. This money will support work in those areas. Funding for the grants, which totals \$42,000, came from the Rodel Foundation of Delaware.

"Our grant will allow us to dig into student data to create benchmarks that we can use to improve instruction in every classroom," Glasgow High School Principal Ray Gravuer said in a press release announcing the grants. "And some of the grant will support parent workshops and improved communications with families."

Vision 2015 first awarded grants in 2008 to 10 schools in its earlier network class.

Grantees also must commit in-kind and financial support from each district or school. Last year's grantees were awarded a total of \$295,000, which the schools leveraged to raise about 10 percent in additional funding.

This year's grants will go to:

- Christina School District's Christiana High -- professional development, communications tools, and the development of a "data team" to analyze data, identify instructional focus areas.
- Christina's Glasgow High -- professional development to support testing and data analysis and better parent communication.
- Christina's Newark High -- a summer retreat focused on improving instruction and leadership team collaboration.
- Christina's Shue-Medill Middle -- professional development and resources for a collaborative summer retreat on improving student comprehension.
- Lake Forest School District's Chipman Middle -- professional development and materials to support uniformity in instruction so every student has a common vocabulary and knowledge that will transfer from year to year.
- Sussex Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School -- professional development to develop common assessments and text-based responses in reading, writing, math, social studies and science, and teacher collaboration.

Vision 2015 is a broad-ranging school reform plan created in 2006 by a coalition of business, education and community leaders. The goal is to revamp Delaware's public school system into a world leader by 2015.
