

eMINTS i3 Validation Grant Initial Interest E-mail to Districts

If your district is looking for a proven way to increase student achievement, improve professional practice and immerse students and teachers in technology-rich learning environments, here is a wonderful opportunity! The eMINTS National Center, at the University of Missouri College of Education, has been awarded a highly selective Investing in Innovation (i3) grant from the U.S. Department of Education to implement its comprehensive professional development (PD) program through a train-the-trainer model in three states and build further evidence about the program's effectiveness in changing teacher practice and improving student outcomes. We are looking for districts in Alabama, Arkansas and Utah that might be interested in participating in this technology integration project that provides one-to-one Chromebooks to students and professional development to administrators, district trainers and seventh grade teachers in participating districts.

The eMINTS Comprehensive Program provides research-based, interactive professional development with in-classroom coaching. Classrooms are transformed into highly engaging, student-centered learning communities aligned with the Common Core State Standards. eMINTS classrooms are technology-rich environments where students tackle real-world problems, collaborate on projects, and are savvy consumers of information and producers of new knowledge.

As a result of years of external program evaluation, the eMINTS Comprehensive Program is one of the few technology PD programs with data to support change in teacher practice that leads to positive impacts on student achievement. A previous rigorous [Investing in Innovations \(i3\) evaluation project](#) conducted in Missouri middle schools showed statistically significant positive program impacts on both teachers' instructional practices and student achievement outcomes.

This project will focus on seventh graders in high-needs schools. We are looking for districts with at least one school with a minimum of 40% of its students eligible for free and reduced lunch. Ideal districts will have at least two schools. Participation in the project will increase your district's capacity to provide your staff with high-quality professional learning that leads to impactful technology integration. The eMINTS train-the-trainer model will provide a comprehensive program of professional development for two trainers in each participating school. Trainers will learn adult facilitation and coaching techniques, as well as, planning and delivery of an effective professional development program for technology integration. District trainers will also provide eMINTS professional development to seventh grade teachers in the subject areas of math, science, language arts and social studies, preparing them for one-to-one technology integration in their classrooms. Upon completion of the program, trainers will be prepared to lead your district in high-quality professional learning and technology, strategic planning and integration.

The project will be implemented as a field trial, with schools randomly assigned to participate in two years of professional development in either the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years or the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years. Those schools in the latter group will serve as a comparison for the earlier group of schools, continuing typical practice during 2016 - 2019. This approach allows us to build rigorous evidence on the

impacts of the project while also ultimately delivering the professional development to all participating schools.

Grant-funded Equipment and Services

- 1-to-1 Chromebook for each seventh grade student
- Chromebook for each teacher in the study
- Virtual coaching system with camera and cloud storage
- Stipends for teachers and district trainer in the study (\$15.00/hour plus benefits)
- Travel to state-wide meetings, trainer PD sessions and administrator PD sessions

Participants

- Seventh grade core area teachers – math, language arts, science, social studies, and special education (eligibility for special education TBD)
- Two staff members per school who can serve as trainers ***with the ability to perform in-classroom visits with teachers***
- Building principal
- Technology coordinator

Professional Development Opportunities

- District trainers participate in eMINTS blended train-the-trainer PD and deliver comprehensive program PD to seventh grade teachers
- Teachers participate in 176 hours of PD and receive a minimum of 18 in-classroom visits over two years from district trainers
- District trainers and teachers receive certification and badging with the completion of a portfolio demonstrating their application of the program
- Principals participate in annual meetings, online PD and yearly site visits and classroom walkthroughs from eMINTS staff

Here's how to find out more about the project and how your district can participate:

Check out the website at <https://sites.google.com/a/emints.org/emints-i3-validation/>

If you wish to participate, there is a form to fill out in the Contact section of the site. Feel free to send an email to emints-info@emints.org or call 573-884-7202 with any questions. We will follow up this email with a phone call in the near future.

Thanks for your consideration,

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