

School District: **Smyrna School District**
School: **Smyrna High School**
Project: **Interdisciplinary, Evidence-based Writing Project**
Award: **\$18,146.12**

Demographics: Smyrna High School serves approximately 1,405 students in ninth through twelfth grades. Roughly 50% of classrooms have between twenty or less students. Their student population is comprised of 21.4% low SES, 15.4% special education, and 0.9% ELL.

Abstract: **Smyrna High School believes that emphasizing collective capacity creates the conditions needed to promote ongoing, discipline embedded professional learning vital to the continuous improvement of teacher and student learning.** Smyrna High School is seeking grant funds for the establishment of a **school-wide, interdisciplinary, evidence-based writing culture.** This project is designed to build the capacity for rigorous, **high-level writing instruction and assessment** through the development of a coherent, pervasive **network of collaborative teams.** The ultimate goal of their project is to **improve student writing by creating a results-oriented collaborative culture** that empowers teachers with the knowledge and skill necessary to affect student learning.

Data: The 2015 SAT School Day data reported that 12.2% of Smyrna High School students met the College and Career Readiness Benchmark, with writing scores falling 16 points below the state average. Consistent with the longitudinal trend in student writing performance on the PSAT and SAT, data from the October 2015 PSAT scores indicate that 71% of Smyrna's sophomores and 68% of their juniors failed to meet the readiness benchmark for writing. Examination of the Instructional Planning Reports for AP courses shows that 63.6% of their AP students scored in the bottom two quartiles on the writing portions of AP exams, with 24.2% falling in the lowest quartile. This trend is consistent across all AP content area exams taken by their students.