

School District: **Colonial School District**
School: **Wilmington Manor Elementary School**
Project: **Creating a Community of Writers at Wilmington Manor**
Award: **\$7,241.18**

Demographics: Wilmington Manor Elementary School (WMES) has 350 students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. Many of their students are at-risk learners in reading and writing. One hundred ten, or 31% of Wilmington Manor’s students receive response to intervention services in Tier II or III reading on a daily basis. Approximately 20% of their students are English Language Learners who receive English as a Second Language support, daily. At WMES, there are currently 17 homerooms with four of those teachers having less than five years of experience. Of their 24 teachers, nine have more than 20 years of teaching experience while the remaining teachers have between eight and twelve years of experience in the classroom.

Abstract: Wilmington Manor Elementary has planned professional learning around **improvements in writing instruction** with the **University of Delaware (UD) Reading and Writing project**. A University of Delaware writing specialist will monitor teacher’s progress in implementation of the **6+1 Traits Writing** during six days of **coaching**. The principal and literacy coach will conduct **walkthroughs** and provide teachers with **feedback** regarding successes and challenges of implementation. **Individual feedback sessions** will take place solely between the teacher and UD trainer to establish a **low-risk, non-evaluative implementation and feedback process for learning**. Grade level teams will conduct regular **data analysis** of **formative writing pieces** to develop and refine **grade level/classroom action plans**.

Data: In order to determine the needs of staff and students, Wilmington Manor Elementary reviewed data on the Smarter Balanced Assessment taken in Spring 2015. When reviewing the four claims in ELA, they found that students made progress across grade levels in three areas: Reading, Speaking/Listening, and Research/Inquiry. However, students showed no growth across grade levels in Writing (see table).

2015 WME Smarter-balanced Assessment Results				
Grade	% PL1 Students: Reading	% PL1 Students: Speaking/Listening	% PL1 Students: Research/Inquiry	% PL1 Students: Writing
3	39	20	24	24
4	28	16	19	25
5	18	8	7	25