

2016 NWP College-Ready Writers Program School and District Commitment Form

This signed form from the School Principal and District Superintendent should be scanned and uploaded by the Writing Project site as part of the High-Need School proposal by March 14, 2016.

Jefferson County Board of Education dba

Jefferson County Public Schools, for

Olmsted Academy North (Name of school and district) and Louisville Writing Project (Name of National Writing Project site) agree to work in partnership with the National Writing Project (NWP) as part of the NWP's Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) grant to pilot a one-year version of the College-Ready Writers Program (CRWP) and engage in all evaluation activities conducted by SRI International, an independent research firm, and NWP. This pilot will allow NWP to further refine and sequence CRWP curricular and assessment materials and to understand whether the one-year version of CRWP has a measurable impact on student writing outcomes. We understand the following:

Project Focus and Duration

1. The central goal of the CRWP is to help students become skilled at writing arguments from non-fiction sources, raise student achievement in writing, and, ultimately, build teacher leadership capacity. The project will offer professional development to 7th and 8th grade English Language Arts teachers (ELA) facilitated by local Writing Project sites, with funding from the NWP.
2. The program includes scaffolded teaching and formative assessment resources and tools. These resources are designed as models that teachers can adapt for and integrate into their curriculum. The program features systematic formative assessment to inform next steps in instruction, including the Using Sources Tool, which supports teachers in analyzing how students make and support claims using evidence from sources.
3. During 2016-17, at least 80% of 7th and 8th Grade ELA teachers will participate in at least 45 hours of CRWP professional development. While ELA teachers in other grades may participate in the professional development, teachers in other disciplines may not be included during 2016-17.
4. The 7th and 8th grade ELA teachers participating in the professional development will teach routine argument writing and four cycles of CRWP during the year and revise two of the pieces, and will analyze their students' argument writing with the Using Sources Tool at least twice annually.
5. The school, district and the local Writing Project site will work collaboratively to plan and implement this project and will complete evaluation requirements.
6. A second of year of professional development will be available to interested schools to ensure that students in the "business as usual" class who continue to be enrolled at the school in the 2017-18 school year receive CRWP instruction, provided the school decides to continue with the program.

Evaluation Requirements

During 2016-17, between 3 and 5, 7th and 8th Grade ELA teachers will voluntarily participate as co-researchers in a randomized control trial "within teacher."

To conduct the study, teacher co-researchers will select two similar classes. SRI will randomly select one class to serve as the "CRWP class" and one as the "business as usual class." Teacher co-researchers will document their practice in both classes using quantitative logs and collect pre-and post-writing samples in the study classrooms that will be scored independently. They will collect artifacts of practice from their CRWP class. Support for planning for and maintaining two distinct classes will be provided by a local Writing Project thinking partner.

Not all 7th and 8th Grade ELA teachers in the school are required to participate in the study. Teacher co-researchers will participate in national co-researcher meetings in July 2016 and July 2017. They will receive a participation incentive of \$1,000.

Several data collection activities will be conducted during 2016 - 2017. These include the following:

- Two-day, on-demand reading and writing tasks, which will be independently scored using NWP's *Analytic Writing Continuum for Source-Based Argument*
- Student level standardized test scores, as relevant
- Teacher logs
- Teacher Practice Survey in Fall 2016, Spring 2017, and Spring 2018 (if relevant)

Participating schools and their districts agree to the following:

- Set aside at least 45 hours for 7th and 8th Grade ELA teachers to participate in CRWP professional development between summer 2016 and spring 2017, with a minimum of 40 hours completed prior to the completion of spring writing prompts.
- Allow 7th and 8th grade teachers, *especially the 3 - 5 co-researchers*, to use CRWP materials in their classrooms, including releasing them from following required curriculum. This excludes the classrooms assigned to business as usual.
- Support teachers as they try out new ideas and strategies in their classrooms.
- Provide rosters of students in the study classes prior to randomization.
- Accommodate randomization of pilot classrooms in the study.
- To the greatest extent possible, keep the study classes intact for the 2016-17 school year.

Resources and Responsibilities

1. Each school will receive professional development services provided by the local Writing Project site paid for by the grant funds awarded to the local Writing Project site. These resources include:
 - CRWP mini-units, formative assessment tools, webinars, and online learning experiences
 - professional development services from the local Writing Project including study of CRWP curricular materials and professional literature; support for implementing CRWP materials in the classroom including co-planning, co-teaching, classroom model lessons; and analysis of students' argument writing.
 - consultation with National Writing Project network leaders, who have expertise in facilitating intensive professional development focused on writing
2. Intensive professional development efforts are most successful when professional development providers, schools, and districts each fully commit to carrying out the work. During 2016-2017, the school, district, and the local Writing Project site must each commit the necessary resources and focus to achieve the goals of the program.

The **local Writing Project site** will receive funds to help defray the costs of the professional development and agrees to

- use those resources to meet the goals of NWP's SEED CRWP funding, including providing at least 45 hours of professional development per teacher during 2016 - 17 to *at least* 80 percent of all 7th and 8th grade ELA teachers.
- provide high-quality, intensive, and sustained professional development
- participate fully in evaluation activities.

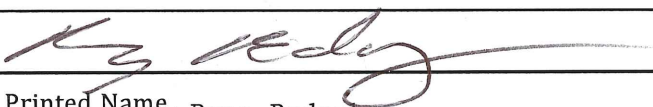
Teachers in the **school** will receive CRWP professional development services from the local Writing Project site.

The school and district will

- make it possible for *at least 80%* of all 7th and 8th grade ELA teachers to participate in 45 hours or more of writing professional development per teacher during the 2016-2017 school year (e.g., release time, professional development time, substitutes)
- establish curricular and instructional policies that support college- and career-ready standards in writing (e.g., dedicate instructional time to writing, modify curricular programs at odds with the professional development, provide resources to help teachers carry out work in their classrooms)
- support teachers as they try out new ideas and strategies in their classrooms
- engage key district and school leaders and teachers in supporting the local NWP site's professional development, in particular work with department heads and school instructional leaders to facilitate the implementation of this program
- participate fully in the evaluation activities

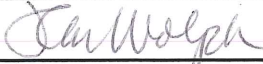
By my signature below, I am

- providing assurance of the interest and willingness of teachers in this school and the school district to participate in intensive College-Ready Writers Program professional development focused on teaching argument writing
- agreeing to support designated teacher co-researchers to participate in a randomized control trial "within teacher."

Signature of building principal	Date
	3-11-16
Printed Name Ryan Rodosky	Title Principal

Signature of superintendent	Date
Printed Name Donna M. Hargens, Ed.D.	Title Superintendent

By my signature below, I am acknowledging that the Louisville Writing Project (Name of National Writing Project site) agrees to work with this school and district to provide professional development focused on teaching argument writing during the 2016 - 17 school year and during 2017- 18, if the school elects to continue the program.

	3-29-16
Signature of local Writing Project Site Director or PI	Date
Jean Wolph	Louisville Writing Project Director
Printed Name	Title

By my signature below, I am providing assurance of the National Writing Project's commitment to providing supports for the professional development, including instructional resources as well as grant dollars to the local Writing Project site.

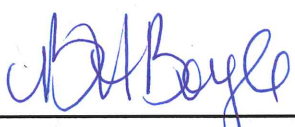
	March 1, 2016
Signature of National Writing Project representative	Date
Barbara Hasselbach Boyle	Director, Grants & Contracts
Printed Name	Title

EXHIBIT A

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS FOR SCHOOL/DISTRICT COMMITMENT FORM

Equal Opportunity: During the performance of this Agreement, the National Writing Project, Jefferson County Public Schools, and Louisville Writing Project each agrees that it shall not discriminate against any employee, applicant or subcontractor because of race, color, national origin, age, religion, marital or parental status, political affiliations or beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, genetic information, or disability. If the Contract Amount is paid from federal funds, this Agreement is subject to Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965 and in such event the Equal Opportunity Clause set forth in 41 Code of Federal Regulations 60-1.4 is hereby incorporated by reference into this Agreement as if set forth in full herein.

FERPA:

If the performance of this Agreement involves the transfer by Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) to the National Writing Project, of any data regarding any JCPS student that is subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), the National Writing Project agrees to:

- In all respects comply with the provisions of FERPA. For purposes of this Agreement, "FERPA" includes the requirements of Chapter 99 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- Use any such data for no purpose other than to fulfill the purposes of the Project, and not share any such data with any person or entity other than NWP and its employees, contractors and agents, without the approval of JCPS.
- Require all employees, contractors and agents of NWP to comply with all applicable provisions of FERPA with respect to any such data.
- Maintain any such data in a secure computer environment, and not copy, reproduce or transmit any such data except as necessary to fulfill the purposes of the Project.
- Conduct the Project in a manner that does not permit the identification of an individual student by anyone other than employees, contractors or agents of NWP having a legitimate interest in knowing such personal identification, and not disclose any such data in a manner that would permit the identification of an individual student in any published results of studies.
- Destroy or return to JCPS any such data obtained under this Agreement within thirty days after the date when it is no longer needed by NWP for the purposes of the Project.

Disputes: Any differences or disagreements arising between the Parties concerning the rights or liabilities under this Agreement shall be resolved through the procedures set out in the Jefferson County Board of Education's Procurement Regulations.

Severability: If a court of competent jurisdiction holds any provisions of this Agreement unenforceable, such provision shall be modified to the extent required to make it enforceable, consistent with the spirit and intent of the Agreement. If such a provision cannot be so modified, the provision shall be deemed separable from the remaining provisions of this Agreement and shall not affect any other provision.

Termination: The Jefferson County Board of Education or the National Writing Project may terminate this Agreement in whole or in part at any time by giving written notice of such termination and specifying the effective date thereof, at least thirty (30) days before the specified effective date.