

# **APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN EVERY LEARNER INQUIRES (ELI) AS A CASE STUDY SCHOOL**

In July of 2006, the Iowa Department of Education will launch a statewide, four-year K-12 science initiative titled *Every Learner Inquires* (ELI) with a summer institute from July 31 to August 3, 2006 at Jester Park, Granger, IA. In addition, five full day seminars are scheduled during the 2006-07 academic school year. As the title of the initiative implies, ELI will focus on inquiry-based teaching and learning which has been at the heart of science reform and supported by extensive research. The goals of the ELI initiative are:

1. Student Learning Goal: Improve science learning for all K-12 students in the state of Iowa
2. Teacher learning goal: Build teacher leadership and content expertise within the system
3. Teacher Practice Goal: Implement inquiry-based instruction
4. Organizational Goal: Establish a structure that sustains the implementation of Every Learner Inquires (ELI)

Four Case Study Schools, two elementary (K-5) and two secondary, one of which will be a middle school or include middle school grades, will be selected to participate in this initiative. The early participation of Case Study Schools will allow us to assess the impact of the ELI initiative on student learning and science teaching. We are looking for schools interested in creating professional communities focused on improving scientific literacy for all students.

ELI Case Study Schools will:

- \* Commit the entire science teaching staff and building principal to the ELI initiative over a four-year period. For elementary Case Study Schools, all staff and building principal will participate in the summer workshops, onsite academic year implementation activities, and onsite professional development sessions related to the ELI implementation goals. Elementary Case Study Schools may identify grade level representatives to attend the academic year seminars. For middle and high school Case Study Schools, all science teaching staff will be expected to attend all ELI activities.
- \* Provide base-line data for student achievement in science.
- \* Implement research-based instructional strategies presented in summer institute and academic year seminars.

- \* Keep implementation logs and report the effectiveness of the instructional strategies in the classroom.
- \* Allocate significant science instructional time as well as building in-service time to ELI content and practice.
- \* Collaborate with the evaluator assigned to the ELI project in collecting and analyzing both summative and formative data. Additional data that may be collected includes attitudinal surveys of teachers and students and anecdotal data.

In return for their commitment and contribution, the Case Study Schools will receive ongoing professional development through the ELI initiative as well as technical assistance support from their AEA, the project evaluator, and the Iowa Department of Education (DE). Based on the number of participants, the DE will provide Case Study Schools an annual grant of up to \$30,000 to cover lodging, travel, meal expenses for teacher, substitute teacher pay, stipends, and other expenses as identified by the participating school. It is likely that graduate credit will be available for participating teachers.

A member of the *Every Learner Inquires* design team will meet with your staff to provide additional details and discuss the ELI initiative.

If your school is interested in taking a leadership role in the ELI Statewide Science Initiative, please complete the application by April 10, 2006 and return to the Iowa Department of Education. If you have questions or are interested in scheduling a meeting, contact either Dr. W. Tony Heiting (515-281-3249) or Kathy McKee (515-281-3146) at the DE.



4. What are your professional development targets/needs for teachers of science in your building?

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Principal's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of all teacher participants: (add as many lines as necessary)

\_\_\_\_\_ Grade level and/or subject area \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Grade level and/or subject area \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Grade level and/or subject area \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Grade level and/or subject area \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this application by April 10, 2006 to:**

Dr. W. Tony Heiting  
Iowa Department of Education  
Grimes State Office Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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