Lexington Public Schools
Professional Learning
Call for Course Proposals!

Are you interested in sharing your knowledge and expertise with colleagues in an entirely new way?

Have you ever considered “growing an idea” and designing a workshop or course for adult learners?

Did you facilitate a session at Lexington Learns Together on Nov 4 and thought that you might want to extend the sharing even further?

As educators in the Lexington Public Schools, we work with colleagues who are passionate about teaching, have tremendous expertise in their respective fields, and have dedicated their professional lives to lifelong learning. Both individually and collectively, we have such extraordinary talent among our teaching staff. During this past school year and last summer, more than half of the 60+ Professional Learning catalog courses and workshops that took place were proposed, coordinated, and taught by LPS faculty—a remarkable accomplishment, reflective of our commitment to continuous learning.

With this in mind, the district-wide LPS Professional Learning Committee regularly seeks proposals from faculty members who are interested in teaching a multi-session workshop or a graduate-level course in our After School Professional Learning Course Offering program. Our goal is to offer courses “that enhance a teacher’s repertoire of assessment strategies, responsive instructional skills, and content knowledge.” The courses are generally about 15 hours in duration (over 5 or 6 sessions), and offer 1 in-house credit or external graduate credit to participants upon their successful completion of course requirements.

Please consider designing a course to offer your colleagues, or perhaps partnering with a colleague to co-teach a course. We are looking to support three new courses for the Spring 2015 catalog and three new courses for the Summer 2015 catalog. Courses should be directly and immediately applicable to improving both instructional practice and student learning. Instructors of approved courses receive the standard LPS rate of $51 per hour for each hour of instruction, along with payment at the same rate for preparation time (not to exceed the number of instructional hours in a course or workshop). You may refer to the course proposal details below for more information about the application and approval process, and your PL Committee building representative can provide you with syllabus examples from recent courses.

We look forward to continuing in our mission of providing high-quality professional learning for LPS staff, and designing opportunities for educators to engage in collaborative inquiry and educational leadership throughout the district.

The LPS Professional Learning Committee
November 2014
Course Proposal Requests for Spring & Summer 2015

General Information

I. Concept Paper – a one-page overview of a course or workshop series that you are interested in developing. The purpose of the concept paper is to give the PL Committee a brief overview of the course you are proposing, indicating how the course will increase teacher understanding and be tied directly to student learning. Please include the following information:

- The proposed course title, instructor, target audience, and number of sessions/hours
- Course objectives and rationale
- General outline of proposed syllabus
- Attach a brief note/email of support from your Dept. Head, Principal, or Supervisor

Due Dates:

- December 10, 2014 for Spring 2015 (Courses run February-June)
- March 18, 2015 for Summer 2015 (Courses run July & August)

Email to:

Len Swanton, PL Coordinator (lswanton@sch.ci.lexington.ma.us) & Carol Pilarski, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Learning (cpilarski@sch.ci.lexington.ma.us)

II. Course Overview – If your concept paper is approved by the PL Committee, you will be asked to meet with a few members of the committee to provide a more detailed overview of the course or workshop series that you are proposing, including a draft syllabus. We will provide you with syllabus samples from courses that have been approved for graduate credits in the past. These courses include:

- Algebraic Reasoning in the Elementary Grades and the New Standards for Mathematical Practice (Grades K-5) by Edie Lipinski, Elementary Mathematics Specialist
- Employing the Lesson Study Method to Improve Instruction (Grades K-12) by Jackie Crowe and Bill Cole, LHS Faculty

III. Course Approvals – The PL Committee will select courses from the pool of proposals to be offered in Spring and Summer of 2015. We will seek to have a variety of curriculum/methodology areas among a span of grade levels (elementary/secondary).