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Teacher collaboration leads to academic success

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The authors of this paper were the lead team that initiated a Literacy/Technology project. Teachers required time to gain the knowledge and skills to teach to the new literacy standards. We believe that the success of such efforts is accelerated when work is conducted in collaboration with peers. With that in mind, the authors applied and received a New York State grant that paired a Charter School with 2 schools that had a high percentage of students receiving free and reduced lunch and which were doing poorly on the New York State assessments. This presentation will provide a description of this successful three-year professional development program. During the presentation, the authors will share the successful outcomes of this professional development model with actual literacy lessons that improve student performance and raise test scores in schools where there is a need for improvement. Some of the methods include: workshops, planning conversations, coaching and data analysis. The results of this project indicate that a successful professional development program needs to include the collaboration of peer teachers within the learning of new skills.