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What is the Innovative Educator Program?

The Innovative Educator Program identifies and selects voluntary early adopters who have vision for technology integration instruction and use in their classroom. The program began with the selection of 43 pilot teachers in Spring 2014 who received intensive, specialized training and support during the 2014-2015 school year. These pilot teachers received shared carts of either Chromebooks, Windows 8 Laptops, or Windows 8 Tablets in Spring 2015. Our Pilot Innovative Educators piloted these devices and Google Apps for Education in Spring 2015. This pilot group of teachers began the 2015-2016 school year with their own cart.

How many teachers will be accepted into Cohort 1?

We are looking to expand our Innovative Educator program by adding about 40 more teachers as part of Cohort 1.

What are the expectations for involvement in the program?

Innovative Educators can expect more frequent visitors to your classroom who are curious and want to learn more about 21st century teaching and learning. You can expect the possibility of being a beta tester for new apps, devices, furniture, or other 21st century learning tools and provide us feedback from teacher and your students to aid in decision-making. You will have your own tech help desk ticket category for specialized support and troubleshooting. You will have premier coaching provided by our Tech TOSA(s). You will have first choice opportunities to attend regional conferences dedicated to improving your tech integration skills.

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Innovative Educators and their selected students will participate in an end-of-the-year technology showcase event on May 26th from 4:00-6:00. This community event is designed to showcase the wonderful things happening with instructional technology in our classrooms district-wide.

Innovative Educators will participate in two release days for additional specialized training. One will occur before they receive their devices and one will occur later in the year. Exact dates still to be determined. Additionally, Innovative Educators will have first opportunity to register for our cohort-based professional development opportunities.

Do I get to choose what device I get?

We piloted several devices in Spring 2015 and found that the Chromebook was the best fit. However, we realize some specialized programs in our district may require software and/or hardware that will not work in the Chrome environment. These cases will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Will I get my own cart?

Not right away. Teams that are accepted as part of Cohort 1 will share a cart for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year. The tentative cart landing date coincides with the start of the second semester. These dates are tentative because they can be influenced by a number of external factors outside of our control, such as shipping delays from outside the country or work completed by vendors that we partner with. You will receive your own cart at the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year.

When are Applications for Cohort 1 Due?

Applications must be completed and submitted by 8pm, Sunday, October 25, 2015 for consideration. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

When will I find out if I have been accepted as an Innovative Educator, Cohort 1 Member?

Notifications will be sent out to all applicants on or before COB on Friday, October 30, 2015.

Who are the existing Innovative Educators?

Our pilot Innovative Educators are:

Alison Van Der Heide	BWI
Angela Williams	SG

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Anika Swisher-Shukuya	WMO
Ashley Gray	BWI
Barbara Butler	WMO
Brianne Dinelli	RB
Carolee Churchill	WMO
Charlotte Matlock	WMO
Christina Ramirez	SP
Elizabeth Estella-Burkholder	WFV
Emily Dea	BWI
Erin Cormier	RB
Felipe Cruz	SG
Gerald O'Connor	RCHS
Heather Best	SG
Jacob Geivett	RCHS
Jared Coughlan	EVG
John Fogle	RCHS
John Miller	YOLO
Karen Jackson	RB
Catherine Forman	RCHS
Katie Vellanoweth	ELK
Lora Monteros	RB
Marin Cornell	SP
Marisela Romero	ELK
Megan Schoellhamer	BWI
Melissa Baldwin	RCHS
Penny Schatzel	SP
Renee Tellier	SG
Robbert Perrine	SG
Sally DeLaMora	SP
Shannon Woods	RCHS
Stephanie Kugler	BWI
Thea Straws	WMO
Theresa Bassett	RB
Tiffany Colasanti	WFV

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Vanessa Valiente-Raeder	WFV
Peter Folks	BWI

Where can I go for additional information?

We will be hosting two voluntary information sessions about the program and application process.

- Wednesday, October 7, 3-4 (K-8 Teachers); 4-5 (HS Teachers)
- Wednesday, October 21, 3-4 (K-8 Teachers) 4-5 (HS Teachers)

You are to attend either day and/or time. The information presented will not differ between K-8 and HS. We wanted to offer different options to better meet interested applicants' needs.

You can contact Melissa Oliver, moliver@wusd.k12.ca.us and/or Kim Harrison, kharrison@wusd.k12.ca.us with questions. You are also highly encouraged to talk with existing Innovative Educators at your site for questions regarding the program.

Are you looking for applications from certain sites, grade levels, or subject areas?

Yes. We want our Innovative Educators to represent the diversity of Washington Unified School District. Currently we have underrepresentation in the following areas: TK/Kinder, Middle School, HS Science, Curriculum Areas outside the core, Specialists, Teachers participating in our Induction Program, Secondary Teachers. This list represents areas where we are currently underrepresented district-wide. We welcome and encourage applications from all interested teachers. Look at our [Google MyMap](#) to see the current distribution of Innovative Educators by site as well as grade level/subject.

If I am not accepted, can I reapply? Or, when is the next application period?

Absolutely! Our next application period will open in March 2016 and Cohort 2 will launch in 2016-2017 school year. Currently, there are no plans for a waiting list. If teachers accepted in Cohort 1 decline the opportunity, we will return to our applications to make a suitable alternative replacement.

What happens if I switch schools, grade levels, or subject areas next year? Does the cart stay with the classroom or go with the teacher?

We are investing in teachers with this program. You will receive specialized training and support on tech integration as part of your participation in this program. Therefore, if you were to switch

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school sites or grade levels in an upcoming year, you will maintain your status as an Innovative Educator and have a cart to use with your students.

I'm not interested in applying as a team? Can I apply alone?

Yes. You may apply alone. We encourage and prioritize team applications because of the communication and collaboration opportunities. However, we will consider individual applications on the strength and merit of the application.

How are applications evaluated?

All applications will be subject to a blind read and scored on the strength of their overall application. Applications will be evaluated on a 4-point scale based on technology Experience, Vision and Collaboration. Applications will then be ranked based on this overall score. At this point, we will look at site, grade level, and subject area information to make final decisions and ensure we have equitable distribution and representation throughout the district.

Does every member of the team need to submit an application?

YES! Every member of the team must submit an application to be considered. In some cases your responses may be identical but it is not unlikely for different team members to have different visions for how they may use the instructional technology in their classes.

What is a team?

Since teams will be sharing carts, site-based teams are preferred. We recommend teams of 2-3 teachers. For ½ Day Kinder teachers, a larger team could work. This could represent teachers at a grade level. It could be a specialist pairing with a GE teacher. It could be the 3 MS English Teachers. It could be 2-3 teachers within a single department at the high school. Or perhaps it represents a pairing of different subject areas. Your team will depend on your plan for collaboration.