

SMALL GROUPS IN SLIFE Learning Site

@ Frederick Pilot Middle School

EVENT SUMMARY

Session Overview

On **April 25, 2023**, the Telescope Network hosted a Learning Site at Frederick Middle School on the topic of Small Groups in SLIFE. Emily Dixon and Ariana Sicairos-McCarthy, SLIFE ESL teachers, were the host teachers at this event. We had **14** participants join from **12** different BPS schools/departments join this session.



LS

What is a Learning Site?

In a Learning Site, educators come together for a 1/2 day in a real live classroom around a common area of practice. Participants debrief with the host teacher and set goals for their own classrooms. Participants continue the learning through virtual follow-up sessions to earn an ALC credit.

Credits
12 PD hr
Or 1 ALC

Why this topic?

Throughout the school year, we've asked BPS educators about their professional development needs. **SLIFE teachers** have told us that it's challenging to balance building foundational skills and understanding of school routines with moving students toward grade-level expectations. At the SLIFE Learning Cohort we hosted in the fall, participants enthusiastically requested more opportunities to collaborate around this topic. Some examples:

"I would like to observe other SLIFE classrooms."

"SLIFE educators really do need a space where they can share best practices, curriculum choices, and troubleshoot. I think that any gathering of the SLIFE folks will be beneficial."

"[Can we have] SLIFE specific PLC- curriculum sharing [such as] learning more about program models across the district, and bilingualism in our language-specific programs...[there are] SO many topics we can learn and discuss together!"

Learning Site Materials

- [Flyer](#)
- [Participant Packet](#)
- [Notes from 4.25.23](#)
- [Driver Diagram](#)

Sample Participant Artifacts

- [Sam Dreyfus, BINcA](#)
- [Ariana McCarthy, Frederick Pilot Middle](#)

Participant Feedback

After the session, **100%** of participants (12 out of 12 exit ticket responses) said that they would recommend this session to a colleague. Additional comments from participants:

- *[Today was] extremely well structured, very useful balance of prep time/observation time/debrief time*
- *Today's session has allowed me to open my mind to new learning opportunities for my students as well as being able to communicate new ideas to my school leaders.*

- It was awesome thank you!!!

Participant Takeaways

We asked, "What's one thing you learned today that might benefit your students?" Sample responses:

- "[I'm planning on] adding a game to each one of my phonemic awareness lessons. Additionally, I'm excited to incorporate more structured dialogue lessons."
- "Teachers need to take the time to build connections with students genuinely."
- "I will make sure to do small group rotations daily."

Next Steps

- This Learning Site includes three follow-up sessions on Zoom on 5/9, 5/23, and 6/6
- [Telescope Events Calendar](#) for future PD sessions and social events.

Additional Resources

Event facilitators: [Emily Dixon](#) and [Ariana Sicairos-McCarthy](#) (host teachers), [Kristen Cacciatore](#), [Garcie Champagne](#) and [Jeff Parks](#) (facilitators)

Visit bostonpublicschools.org/telescope for more information.

Email us at telescope@bostonpublicschools.org.

