

SITE-LEVEL SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION

Example Description for Stipend Position (Sustainability Facilitator)

Developed by Andra Yeghoian - Last Updated August 2022

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Faculty and staff leadership is important, valued, and promoted at the _____ School District. By empowering faculty and staff through both informal and formal leadership structures, teacher leaders perform a vital role in moving our school forward in coherent ways aligned with mission, learning principles, and curriculum. This leadership opportunity is an additional responsibility (stipend for working beyond current contracted position) that is under district supervision.

Sustainability Champions are school-based liaisons that work in collaboration with district sustainability leaders and site level teams. These champions play an integral role in facilitating school awareness and leading programs around established sustainability goals, as well as integrating sustainability work into broader goals such as equity, academic achievement, and school climate. Each site level Sustainability Champion is responsible for providing coordination and oversight of site level sustainability efforts, as well as contributing to a broader district-wide sustainability effort focused around a culture of continuous improvement towards whole school sustainability integration (campus, curriculum, community and culture).

General responsibilities include:

- Works with the district coordinator, sustainability committee, and site level administrators to complete a site level landscape analysis and benchmarking of sustainability efforts and programs at the school site.
- Works with the district coordinator, sustainability committee, and site level administrators to support the development and implementation of annual whole school sustainability plans.
- Participates in committees, task forces and workshops to engage with students, faculty, staff and administration to develop strategies and goals related to sustainability.
- Monitors assigned budget. Plans and reconciles expenditures; allocates and disburses funds and provides appropriate rationale for expenditures.
- Represents the sustainability committee at school-wide and district-wide events.
- Serves as a role model and mentor students for success in college and future careers.
- Facilitates data collection of metrics and qualitative stories to create site-level reports and contributes to overall district reporting on sustainability initiatives.

Responsibilities specific to each component of whole school sustainability integration include:

A) Community and Culture

- Student voice and leadership are essential for sustainability efforts; therefore, the Sustainability Champion will recruit and regularly convene (weekly/2x per month) a group of at least 10-15 youth as the “Sustainability Club.”
- Supports Sustainability Club to plan and implement campus and community greening projects and events that are focused around infrastructure changes, policy, behavior change, and cultural awareness changes.

- Works with the Sustainability Club to organize and execute 1-2 annual environmental celebration/awareness events (e.g., Earth Week, Earth Overshoot Day, World Environment Day, etc.).
- Facilitates opportunities for parent engagement in sustainability efforts.
- Supports school-wide training and education efforts (i.e. zero waste training).

B) Campus and Operations

- Initiates and coordinates campus-based sustainability projects (e.g., zero waste, carbon neutral energy, sustainable food, outdoor classrooms and gardens, etc.) that align to district goals and site-level strategic plans. This coordination may involve supporting students to select and implement appropriate projects.
- Researches or writes proposals for grant funding that support sustainability projects.

C) Curriculum and Instruction

- Models integration of environmental sustainability education (ESE) into course curriculum (i.e. solutionary PBL, supplemental and thematic integration, etc.).
- Supports teachers who wish to incorporate environmental sustainability education (ESE) lessons into their curriculum.
- Checks-in with department heads at least two times per year to support department level Environmental Literacy goals and plans, and collection of student work.
- Works with District Sustainability Coordinator and District Curriculum Leaders on annual professional development offerings focused around environmental literacy and solutionary Project Based Learning.

QUALIFICATIONS

Sustainability Champion Leaders Possess:

- A strong commitment to the district's sustainability vision
- A demonstrated capacity for leadership and a proactive approach to building leadership abilities through professional development
- Knowledge and understanding of sustainable practices
- Skill in project management
- Ability to speak with confidence and authority on sustainability issues
- Knowledge of student development and/or leadership development.
- High levels of communication skills, organizational skills and technological literacy
- A willingness to commit to the agreed additional time necessary to accomplish these tasks (in some cases, this might be defined in the job description as a slightly longer working year than other faculty colleagues and/or regular participation in divisional leadership meetings)
- Works well and collaboratively with a variety of stakeholders (i.e. students, teacher, parents, staff, administrators, facilities, etc.)

REFERENCES FOR MODEL AND CHAMPION DESCRIPTION

- [Sustainability Roadmaps for Hospitals](#)
- [NYC DOE Sustainability Efforts](#) and [2018-19 Annual Report](#)
- [Jacksonville Florida Green Champions Program](#)
- [Detroit's Americorps Green Schools Coordinator](#)
- [Building Effective School Environmental Clubs](#)

- [Guide to Creating Teacher Leader Positions](#)
- [Getting the Most out of Stipends](#)