

Teacher Talk



News for the Office of Adult and Continuing Education Teacher Community

Promoting Teacher Leadership

Basic Education and English as a Second Language teachers took control of the wheel at our recent program-wide professional development sessions held on December 23rd, 2014! Approximately twenty educators from across our eight regions shared their 'Best Practices for Differentiation.' Sessions were held at three of our learning centers, BALC, MMALC, and QALC.



Mr. Edwin Cruz (center), BE Level 5 teacher, works with two of his students.

The theme of differentiation was identified based on Central team visits to the field and patterns seen in educational gain data in our OACE classrooms.

Principals selected the following instructors to share innovative strategies used to

meet students' needs: S. Meningall-Reid, C. O'Shaughnessy, T. Bell, O. Henry, T. Noverr Chin, A. Bell, T. Alexander, E. Knight, V. Okonkwo, U. Malibiran, G. Ficentise, E. Cali, S. Ghevarghese, Y. Lee,

R. Samuels, L. Callender, M. Armstrong, J. Ostane, M. Rocha, T. Fishman, B. Korol, M. Biederman, and T. Newman-Edmundson.

Thank you for your expertise, Colleagues!

Who We Are...

One hundred twenty-nine full-time teachers work with our adult students during the day.

Edwin Cruz, pictured above, has been an educator for approximately 20 years and a

full-time adult education instructor with OACE for approximately 6 years. Mr. Cruz works at Region 1 at the Bronx Adult Learning Center in East Tremont.

In this premier-issue photo,

Charles Francis, left, and Edgar Zavala, right, practice using scientific calculators to solve math problems.

The two gentlemen are *en route* to the TASC, the new high school equivalency assessment in New York State.

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Fast Facts & Figures!



- More than 500 full-time, part-time, and per session teachers provide service at OACE...
- We plan lessons for almost 700 tuition-free classes in Adult Basic Education, TASC preparation, English for Speakers of Other Languages, and Career and Technical Education...
- Teachers work during the day, in the evenings, and on Saturdays at close to 150 sites in communities all over New York City!

Inside this Issue:

In Focus **1**
Teacher Leadership

Who We Are... **1**
A Bronx Educator

What You Should Know... **2**
Snap to Attendance!

Opportunities **2**
Building Curriculum

Perspectives **2**
Teacher Share Sessions

Our New Attendance Policy

If you've ever grumbled about the challenge of ensuring that latecomers sign your class attendance register, good tidings are here! Beginning January 2015, student signatures are no longer required to confirm attendance! Teachers will continue certifying contact hours but students do not have to sign in.

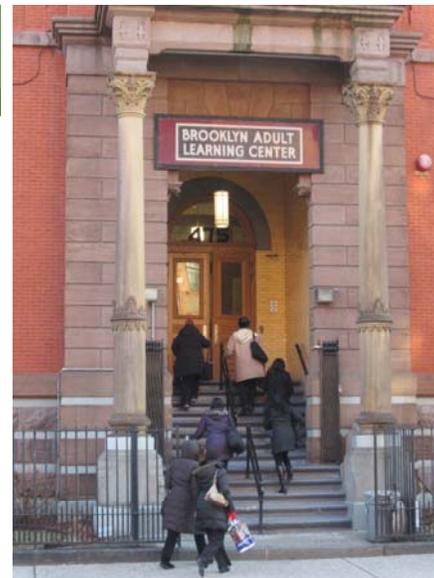
An optional, electronic attendance-monitoring tool was rolled out in January. Although we are still mandated to maintain paper records, the electronic tool minimizes teacher labor and margin

for error by automatically totaling a student's contact hours. Initial feedback on the tool has been positive.

Teachers received training on the new policy in December. Updated instructions on managing rosters, including printing, may be accessed at <http://tinyurl.com/lka8kv8>.

Feel free to reach out to your EO or Community Associate-Operations staff member with questions.

Did You Know? OACE receives funding based on the number of contact hours.



Students brave the cold weather for morning classes at Region 8 (BALC) in Brooklyn's historic Bedford Stuyvesant.



Opportunities!



Collaboratively Charting Curriculum...

Full-time and per session teachers, instructional facilitators and administrators have drafted units in Science, Mathematics, ESL, Social Studies, and English Language Arts, as a result of a Met Life grant. *If you're interested in vetting, piloting, or modifying these units, please contact Yvonne Neal at YNeal@schools.nyc.gov.*

New! ELA and Math Materials for CCRS! Visit the **LINCS CCRS Standards Project** page for resources at <http://lincs.ed.gov/programs/ccr>

March in to March with Math!

On March 10, 11, and 20, join your colleagues for **Calculators for the TASC** and OCTAE's **LINCS Math for ESL**. To register for these and other sessions, please visit the NYC RAEN website. <http://tinyurl.com/n9zp326>

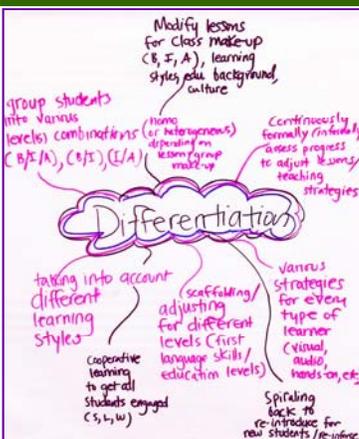
Resources for Instructors of ELLs

Follow the link below for ways to support the literacy development of ELLs. <http://tinyurl.com/l32gw5l>

School Closings

In inclement weather, please visit the OACE website at <http://www.oaceny.org> for up-to-the-hour information on school closings and schedule changes.

Reflections on Differentiation-Themed Share Sessions



After each professional learning session or regional meeting, participants have the opportunity to share their views about what worked and what didn't work. The following comments are from colleagues who participated

"Great PDI it was very informative."

"The use of classroom teachers to conduct the workshop greatly added to the relevancy of the topic."

"I plan to differentiate content to teach skills. I also plan to use the carousel strategy."

"Much of the information was useful today. Maybe more time could be given for the group activities."

"All three presenters did excellent jobs in the workshop! Helpful internet resources were also shared."

"It was good!"

"I liked the 3 different presentations, especially coming from a fellow teacher."