

ALL K-8 CENTER AND MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS/APs: Social Sciences- 8th grade U.S. History Research
Study/Professional Development

Category:**Audience:** Principals/APs (Middle)

Due Date: Aug 12, 2016

Meeting Date: n/a

Attachment(s): [TSG-FAQs 4-19.pdf](#)

To announce an opportunity for K-8 Centers/Middle Schools to participate in a research study by the U.S. Department of Education for 8th grade U.S. History teachers focusing on academic vocabulary.

- The Department of Social Sciences, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Education, is pleased to offer an opportunity for 14 K-8 Centers or Middle Schools to participate in a research study regarding academic vocabulary and U.S. History.
- The purpose of *Teacher Study Group (TSG) in Vocabulary* is to improve the academic vocabulary instruction of grade 8 social science teachers in Miami-Dade County Public Schools participating in this initiative.
- This grant-funded program (federal research study) is a concentrated professional development effort designed to build teachers' working knowledge of research-based academic vocabulary instruction, improve their teacher practice, and increase students' achievement in academic vocabulary.
- Schools will be randomly assigned to either an experimental group or control group. The requirements for teachers will depend upon which group the schools will be assigned to by the project administrators.
- **All participating teachers** from experimental group and control group schools will:
 - receive a copy of the book, *Learning How to Improve Vocabulary Instruction through Teacher Study Groups*;
 - receive a \$500 stipend;
 - allow for the administration of a Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 student assessment;
 - distribute parental consent forms to students;
 - be observed during classroom instruction of 8th grade U.S. History;
 - complete surveys, as required by the TSG program; and
 - receive a one-year institutional membership to National Council for the Social Studies(NCSS).
- In addition, teachers from the **experimental group** schools will:
 - participate in ten 75-minute PD sessions throughout the 2016-2017 school year at their own school; and
 - receive lesson plans for the instruction of academic vocabulary using research-based techniques.
 - The ten 75-minute PD sessions will be facilitated a teacher from the same participating school (can be a qualified teacher at the school who may or may not teach social studies as well). Facilitators will receive a \$750 stipend.
- Additional program information, benefits and requirements are listed on the attached, *TSG-FAQs* document.
- Interested schools should click on the application link below, complete all required fields, on or before August 12, 2016.
- <http://socialsciences.dadeschools.net/forms/8th-grade-US-History-study-group-form.asp>
- Should you have questions, please contact Mr. Robert C. Brazofsky, Executive Director, Department of Social Sciences, rbrazofsky@dadeschools.net.

Contact: Robert C. Brazofsky (305 995-1982)**Department:** Department of Social Sciences