District Name:	Cooperative: KVEC
# of students impacted:	# of staff impacted:
Pillar Connection: Instructional Design, Accountability and Assessment, Equitable Systems and Community Partnerships	Funds requested:

Description of Project/Initiative

Beliefs and Introduction:

As educators committed to students' success in life, in school, and in their eventual workplace, we believe they must go beyond the study of superficial knowledge largely dependent upon rote memory skills to dive more deeply to make meaning and be capable of transferring their learning. We understand Deeper Learning to be the acquisition and development of content, skills, and dispositions that ALL learners need to thrive in life. Deeper Learning competencies promote the ability to transfer learning and apply it to new and complex situations in an ever-changing global environment.

We believe that the education setting is both innovative and resistant at the same time. We believe this opposing dynamic exist due to the inner struggle within committed educators that want what is best for their students while struggling to find practical ways for innovation to thrive in an educational system that can mirror the constraints of an assembly line.

It is our belief that innovation has a greater chance of being sustained if its origins begin with practitioners in direct contact with students – in the place of learning. Our focus for the Deeper Learning Initiative will be teachers and is why 67% of allotted funds will go towards teacher stipends including the cost of fringe benefits.

Each teacher selected will assume the role of a Deeper Learning Coach receiving in total $5,000 in stipends for services provided outside the school day over the course of the grant ending September 30th, 2024. Our project will be implemented in three phases with phase 1 beginning January 2023.

Phase 1: Learning (Beginning January 2023)

Teachers will be selected by January 2023 as Deeper Learning Coaches. Selected teachers will already possess a committed sense of purpose for their profession and exhibit a

love for students and their well-being. Deeper Learning Coaches will come to the work having already shown a disposition for learning and innovation with examples evident of their commitment for sustained and focused efforts both in the classroom and outside. Deeper Learning Coaches will have an interest and ability to lead professional learning within their school and district.

While an understanding of what Deeper Learning is could be assumed, it is our belief that to best prepare Deeper Learning Coaches we must provide learning opportunities that assure time for meaning making. For it is meaning making that we believe is fundamentally at the core of each instructional strategy or tool designed to provide Deeper Learning. For this reason, we have partnered with Silver Strong & Associates to help guide Deeper Learning Coaches in how to teach for Deeper Learning in the Thoughtful Classroom.

The Thoughtful Classroom (a.k.a Silver Strong & Associates) has a legacy of success in helping Kentucky schools improve teaching and raise student achievement. As leaders in research-based tools and strategies, instructional coaching, and leadership training, the Thoughtful Classroom team can help our coaches realize the goal of deep learning in every classroom. More specifically, our work with the Thoughtful Classroom will focus on four critical goals:

- Assessing and reinforcing our learning culture so that it better supports deep learning.
- Helping teachers design and deliver instruction that promotes deep learning.
- Helping all students develop the thinking skills needed to learn deeply and transfer their learning beyond school.
- Leveraging the power of instructional leadership to grow and sustain this important work**.**

Professional Learning and Required Activities

- *Kick-Off (November 2, 2023)*
  ⓘ Morning Learning with Afternoon Collaboration |HYBRID with Onsite Location at KVEC (District/School Leaders & Deeper Learning Coaches Attend)
  KVEC covers cost of providing the Kick-Off. Substitutes and Travel Cost for Deeper Learning Coaches are eligible expense reimbursements from the 33% portion of the district's grant award.

  In this introductory session the Thoughtful Classroom team will meet with District/School Leaders, Deeper Learning Coaches and the KVEC Team to kick off the initiative, generate excitement, establish expectations, clarify goals, and establish a strong collaborative relationship to support the initiative. For this session, Dr. Silver will be available online & a Thoughtful Classroom Coach will be onsite at KVEC for those able to attend in person.

- *Deeper Learning Academy Learning Sessions (Beginning January 2023)*
  ⓘ Three days with Dr. Harvey Silver & a Thoughtful Classroom Coach |HYBRID with Onsite Location at KVEC
  (Deeper Learning Coaches & District/School Leaders Attend)
  KVEC covers cost of providing the Learning Sessions. Substitutes and Travel Cost for Deeper Learning Coaches are eligible expense reimbursements from the 33% portion of the district's grant award.

  Each session will focus on a universal and essential topic related to deeper learning:

  - o Session #1: Building a Foundation for Deep Learning: The Four Cornerstones
  - o Session #2: Designing for Deep Learning: Instructional Design & Delivery
  - o Session #3: Empowering Students with Deep Learning Skills: Teaching for Deeper Learning

  At key points during the sessions, participants will experience instructional tools and consider how these tools can support identified district priorities. Please note that these sessions align directly with district pathways so that districts may choose to go deeper into any one of these topics.

  During these learning days, Dr. Silver will present virtually, while a Thoughtful Classroom Coach will be onsite to facilitate the learning, model workshop-specific tools, and provide feedback and planning support to help Deep Learning Teams and KVEC Support Staff bring the concepts and tools into their schools.

- Self-Paced Virtual Learning (2023 Spring Semester)
  ⓘ 25 hours |Online Self-Paced Courses
  (Deeper Learning Coaches Complete)
  $200 per Deeper Learning Coach for access to the online learning suite that is eligible as an expense reimbursement from the 33% portion of the district's grant award.

  Deeper Learning Coaches will complete two of Silver & Strong's online learning suites – *Instructional Designer's Toolbox* & *The Four Cornerstones*. Deeper Learning Coaching/Support described below will coincide with and help Deeper Learning Coaches as they progress through the on-line modules with KVEC support staff available for individualized support.

- Deeper Learning Coaching/Support (2023 Spring Semester)
  ⓘ Two, 2-hour Sessions |ONLINE Outside the School Day
  (Deeper Learning Coaches & District/School Leaders Attend)
  KVEC covers cost of providing.

  Deeper Learning Coaches and District/School Leaders will be brought together for two coaching sessions (approximately 2-hours per session) that will focus on:

  1) Deepening understanding of core concepts and tools from the virtual learning suites.
  2) Coaching and support so that the DL Teams & KVEC Deeper Learning Coaches can better support their districts.
  3) Exploring connections between presented content and district focus topics.

- Kentucky Innovation Initiatives: United We Learn (2023 Spring Semester)
  ⓘ 1 Day |HYBRID with Onsite Location at KVEC
  (District/School Leaders & Deeper Learning Coaches Attend)
  KVEC covers cost of providing. Substitutes and Travel Cost for Deeper Learning Coaches are eligible expense reimbursements from the 33% portion of the district's grant award.

  The Kentucky Department of Education's Division of Innovation will provide a day of learning regarding statewide innovations and opportunities. District/school administrators and Deeper Learning Coaches will broaden their knowledge of innovative initiatives associated with Deeper Learning Principles to better inform their choice for action research in phase two.

  By completing the above professional learning and required activities District/School Administrators and Deeper Learning Coaches will gain foundational knowledge for practical tools/instructional strategies to teach for Deeper Learning and be exposed to innovative approaches that incorporate Deeper Learning Principles. It is in phase two this new learning will be used to design a Deeper Learning Action Research Project.

Phase 2: Action Research (Beginning Fall 2023)

We recognize that each school setting has unique characteristics influenced by the community and children it serves. Not only this, but administrators, teachers, and staff help to form a school culture that is unique as well. Differences like these should not be perceived as a weakness, but a strength to be utilized and harnessed for any school initiative. It is our experience that the uniqueness of place must be honored for sustainability.

For this reason, we will engage our Deeper Learning Coaches in Action Research beginning Fall 2023 and culminating in Spring of 2024. District/School Administrators and Deeper Learning Coaches will work together to identify a focus of research/problem of practice that addresses at least one of the four pillars of the Deeper Learning Grant: Equitable Systems; Instructional Design; Accountability and Assessment; and Community Partnerships.

Professional Learning and Required Activities

- Designing an Action Research Project (Fall 2023)
  ⓘ Morning Learning with Afternoon Collaboration |HYBRID with Onsite Location at KVEC
 (District/School Leaders & Deeper Learning Coaches Attend)
  KVEC covers cost of providing. Substitutes and Travel Cost for Deeper Learning Coaches are eligible expense reimbursements from the 33% portion of the district's grant award.

  KVEC staff will provide guided learning for Designing an Action Research Project. District/School Leaders and Deeper Learning Coaches will spend the morning learning and the afternoon

collaborating on the design of their 2023-24 Action Research Project targeting at least one of the Deeper Learning Pillars: Equitable Systems; Instructional Design; Accountability and Assessment; and Community Partnerships.

© thecreativeeducator.com
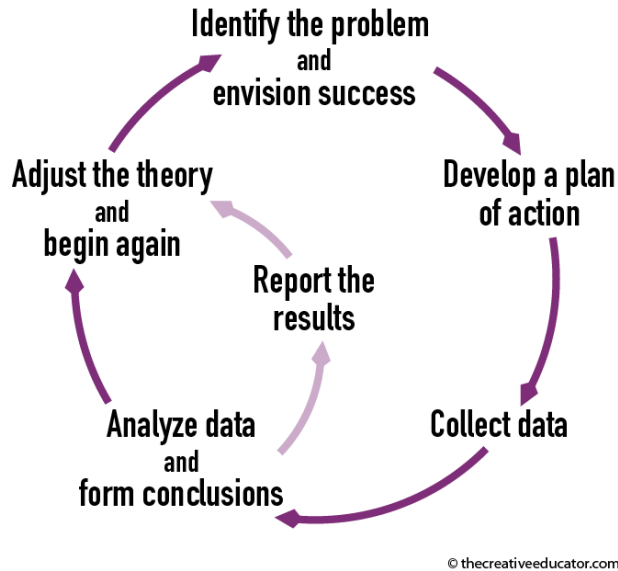
- ## Action Research Project Defense (October 2023)
  (Deeper Learning Coaches Participate)
  KVEC covers cost of providing. District provides access to technology needed by the Deeper Learning Coach to produce the video recording defense.

  Deeper Learning Coaches will provide a video recording of themselves describing their planned Action Research Project. As part of the reflective process each Deeper Learning Coach will be asked to review two other Action Research Projects for the purpose of sharing thoughts of praise and constructive feedback. Video access and the reflection process will be facilitated by The Holler, KVEC's Learning/Social Media Platform.

- ## Action Research Coaching/Support (2023-24 School Year)
  (Deeper Learning Coaches and District/School Leaders Participate)
  KVEC covers cost of providing.

  KVEC staff will provide on-site and virtual coaching and support to District/School Leaders and Deeper Learning Coaches.

- ## Deeper Learning Showcase (Spring 2024)
  (Deeper Learning Coaches Participate)
  KVEC covers cost of providing. District provides access to technology needed by the Deeper Learning Coach to produce the video recording.

One of the most beneficial steps in the action research process is sharing results and lessons learned with the educational community. Each Deeper Learning Coach will provide a video of themselves that showcases their project so others may learn about promising practices and be better informed on how to implement successfully. Context will be emphasized with culture and place described. Presentations will be posted on The Holler arranged by grade span and the Deeper Learning Pillar they addressed as an open access library for all.

Phase 3: Scaling (Fall 2024)

District/School Leaders and Deeper Learning Coaches will work together to use what was learned in the previous school year during the Action Research Project to scale up to the school or district level a practice that addresses at least one of the Deeper Learning Pillars: Equitable Systems; Instructional Design; Accountability and Assessment; and Community Partnerships. Deeper Learning Coaches will submit meeting agendas, sign-in sheets, slide presentations and feedback survey results for at least two professional learning opportunities they offer within their school or district.

How does this initiative employ deeper learning pedagogical practices?

Dr. Harvey Silver, president of the Thoughtful Classroom, is a leading expert on instructional practices that promote deeper learning. With Jay McTighe, Silver co-authored *Teaching for Deeper Learning* (2020), which was previously named as one of the 100 Best Teaching Books of All Time by Book Authority. In *Teaching for Deeper Learning*, Silver and McTighe identify a set of deep-learning skills that empower students to make meaning so that they understand content deeply. The Thoughtful Classroom team will help our Deeper Learning Coaches develop a repertoire of teaching practices to integrate these deep-learning skills into their everyday instruction.

In addition, The Thoughtful Classroom is well known for its library of research-based pedagogical practices (known as tools), which are compiled in the award-winning series, Tools for Today's Educators. These tools are also available to Deeper Learning Coaches as multimedia tutorials in the Thoughtful Classroom's new online learning suites (Silver Strong & Associates, 2020, 2021, & 2022). A key benefit of working with the Thoughtful Classroom team is the ability to customize our deeper-learning initiative by selecting and focusing on those pedagogical practices that will best address each district's needs and goals.

How does this initiative foster student agency?

In *Teaching for Deeper Learning*, McTighe and Silver (2020) remind us that "understanding is not something that teachers can transmit simply by telling. . . Students must earn understanding through the active mental manipulation of content" (1). To ensure that our work in deeper learning focuses on empowering students to think deeply and make meaning so that they take agency over their learning, we will be integrating into our practice Thoughtful Classroom tools designed specifically to

- Slow down student thinking and train students to become more deliberate and effortful as they learn.
- Teach students how to analyze the demands of work and assignments.
- Help students set meaningful goals and learn how to "plan backwards" and monitor progress to achieve those goals.

How will you ensure this initiative is culturally responsive and accessible to all learners?

While every student is unique, current research on the science of learning reveals that the learning process is similar for all learners. Cognitive scientist Daniel Willingham (2021) puts it simply: "Children are more alike than different in terms of how they think and learn" (167). Thus, our work in deeper learning will focus on teaching all students how to use their minds well by using a variety of thinking skills to build deep understanding.

However, the recognition that we can help all learners develop as thinkers and learners by focusing on how learning takes place in general does not mean that our work in deeper learning will be one-size-fits all. For example, schools may prioritize tools to help students build their skills in empathizing and perspective-taking, which are two of the skills highlighted in McTighe and Silver's text, *Teaching for Deeper Learning*. By equipping teachers with tools and techniques that capitalize on the power of empathizing and perspective taking, we will increase our commitment to inviting all students to

- Tell their own stories.
- "Walk in the shoes" of other people.
- See issues from others' perspectives.
- Draw on their personal values, experiences, and cultural identities to increase their connection to academic content.

How will students display or defend their learning?

A key element of the instructional design model that is part of the Thoughtful Classroom approach is the integration of assessment and instruction into a seamless whole. As part of their work in design lessons and units, teachers will learn how to use a set of formative and summative assessment techniques designed to

- Make student learning visible so that it can be examined by both students and teachers.
- Teach students how to analyze and monitor their own work, assess their effort, and shoot for "personal bests."
- Help teachers design rich, authentic assessment tasks that require the use of deep thinking skills and promote transfer of learning to contexts beyond the classroom.

How does this initiative change the learner experience?

In *Teaching for Deeper Learning* (2020), McTighe and Silver explain: When deep learning and understanding are the goals, the teacher's role expands primarily from a dispense of information or modeler of a skill (the sage on the stage) to a facilitator of meaning making (a guide on the side). More specifically, teachers facilitate understanding of classroom content by helping students process that content using thinking skills that engage them in active meaning making.

In other words, a key in working with the Thoughtful Classroom is to reduce the focus on the content-coverage model that promotes superficial learning and to change the learner experience so that they have regular opportunities to engage in the kind of deep and active thinking that leads to long-lasting understanding.

Upon completion, how will this initiative be assessed for effectiveness and sustainability?

We will use four criteria to assess the initiative's success:

- **Culture:** Are we seeing the development of a culture that supports deep learning for both students and the staff?
- **Knowledge**: Does the staff have a collective knowledge of research-based practices that promote deeper learning? Is there common language for talking about teaching and learning?
- **Practice:** Are we seeing regular use of deeper learning tools and strategies in all classrooms? Are teachers designing lessons and units with deep learning principles and practices in mind?

• **Achievement:** Is the work having a positive impact on teacher performance and student learning?

Methodology for data collection throughout the grant will focus on completion target dates, agendas, participation/perception data surveys, and video evidence provided by Deeper Learning Coaches.