

Teachers' Response to 2003 SETC Survey about the NO LIMIT! Project

Question #1: Please make comments about your experience in the NO LIMIT! Project.

Answer: I am truly going to miss being part of the LD portion of the grant. It has been a life-changing experience for me.

Answer: I feel that this project has improved my teaching ability 100%. Mainly in the area of using technology for myself and students for enhancing better learning skills and the tools necessary for functioning and learning for a world of mass tech growth.

Answer: This has been a lot of work but one of the most rewarding experiences of my teaching career. I have learned so much and my students have benefited greatly. Thank you for the great opportunities to learn and grow personally and professionally.

Answer: I have been given so much to learn and experience that this two years is just a step. I'll be experiencing much more growth.

Question #2: What permanent changes to your teaching methods have you made as a consequence of your participation in the NO LIMIT! Project?

Answer: The NO LIMIT! Grant has been a wonderful experience for my students and myself. Even though I am no longer an official member, I am going to continue doing anchored instruction and teaming with general education teachers to "spread the word" about the grant project.

Answer: This is only the beginning for us. Next year I expect to use anchored instruction even more. The training and material have given me so many more ideas.

Answer: I utilize a lot more of hands-on teaching. The students are more active participants in their own education. I now feel more comfortable releasing some of the teaching to the students, rather than standing up in front of the class and lecturing.

Answer: I loved anchored instruction and using assistive technology. My students are empowered by the project and technology. They are excited about learning and enjoy school. I would not go back to teaching without the use of technology in my classes.

Answer: I definitely use more computers/technology in every-day teaching than before. Allowing students to self explore an activity, giving them tools to just go for it and then teach to what they struggle with or don't understand.

Answer: I do more whole class projects with the students having a lot more input on how things happen. There is more discussion about projects and a great deal less pass pushing.

Answer: Without being in this grant my teaching would have been okay, however, I feel that the trainings and technology will benefit my long term teaching ability with students who have a learning disability. Giving them the tools to self improve their disability and make them more of an advocate for themselves, instead of feeling like they have no control or self support.

Answer: Everything I teach, or intend to teach, I review and plan around technology. I find a way to adapt it to technology so that it is a better lesson. I think about how I can bring learning alive for the students. Math and technology are a good fit.

Answer: I use far more hands-on learning strategies and techniques. I also incorporate technology into my teaching routinely now. Anchored instruction has made a big impact on my teaching style, and has become a preferred tool.

Question #3: What advice would you give future teachers involved in the NO LIMIT! Project?

Answer: Be prepared for transformation! I have had the greatest professional growth spurt in my 30 years in education.

Answer: Don't worry about not being the best when just starting on a new project; just jump into it with both feet and you will get better the more you are involved.

Answer: Don't be afraid to ask questions or for help. The "crew" is there to help, and there is no question or request that is too ridiculous to ask.

Answer: Have fun and enjoy yourself! The grant may seem overwhelming at first, but it's always an adventure for yourself and your students.

Answer: Not to get wiggled out. Pre-plan how and who will use the technology. Most of all have fun and get involved with the student's learning that's going on.

Answer: Do one step at a time. Let students know what the goal is.

Answer: Lucky you! Enjoy! Stay organized and you can meet the demands of the grant and still have fun.

Answer: Be prepared to work very hard, to learn a lot, and to make positive changes to the way you teach!

Answer: Plan ahead and take advantage of every training opportunity given.

Question #4: What were the biggest or most important impacts of the NO LIMIT! Project on your students?

Answer: I think that NO LIMIT! Had the biggest impact on my students just in their confidence. I saw 6th graders last year (during the first year of the grant) that hated math with a passion because it didn't make sense to them and they were frustrated after years and years of struggling. As the year went on, the students began to have more confidence in themselves. They demonstrated this by participating more in class and beginning to explain their problem solving strategies to the rest of the class. They became better risk takers, which carried over into other content area classes.

Answer: Even my most resistant students found something that they like about Math.

Answer: Most of the students who had initially wanted to work independently had jumped right in and were actively engaged in their group. The students developed new relationships and found out about hidden talents that they didn't even realize that they had.

Answer: When this (second school year began, I had many of the same students in a math class and the retention of skills that they had learned the previous year was phenomenal. Ususally with fractions and rates/ratios we would have to spend at least a week reviewing each skill. With this group, the students needed very little review and those that did were not a part of the grant the year previous.

Answer: My "experienced" students were the ones that taught the skill to the "rookies". It was tremendous to see. Instead of me being the teacher, I was able to step back and see my students become the teachers.

Question #5: What were the biggest or most important impacts of the NO LIMIT! Project for you?

Answer: Being able to have use of a computer to help them instead of waiting for the teacher.

Answer: They were more attentive. They completed more classwork. They worked harder and longer. They helped each other.

Answer: My students became eager math students. They enjoyed the class, talked openly about liking it, and were proud to show off their newfound learning and skills, both math and technology. They also learned a LOT of math!

Question #6: As a teacher, what are the greatest challenges you have faced in the NO LIMIT! project?

Answer: . . . getting everything done in a timely manner . . . There is so much to do and learn sometimes it's overwhelming, but it's definitely worth the effort.

Answer: Time-- trying to learn, do and teach 6 periods a day.

Answer: Very difficult to get testing finished as students involved have had a rash of absences the last week with often only 1 or 2 present.

Answer: The regular job related items that have to take precedence such as 40-50 IEPs and teaching classes. The importance of the technology is so great that we will continue to plug along, just much slower than first hoped.

Answer: I worry about what will happen to these kids when they move up to high school and don't have access to the technology or this type of instruction.