School District: **Colonial School District**
School: **Gunning Bedford Middle School**
Project: **Colonial Mathematics Teachers: Re-engaging in the Common Core**
Award: **$16,094.14**

Demographics: Gunning Bedford Middle School serves approximately 1,034 students in sixth through eighth grades. 65% of classrooms have between 26 and 35 students. Their student population is comprised of 28.4% low SES, 11.7% special education, and 1.9% ELL.

Abstract: The Gunning Bedford Middle school staff aim to strengthen teachers' understanding of **math content**, **mathematical practices**, and the **key shifts in mathematics** highlighted in the **Common Core State Standards**. Utilizing the **Delaware Standards for Professional Learning** to offer varied professional learning opportunities, **data-driven PLC support**, **collaborative instructional rounds**, and **strategic coaching** will help Gunning Bedford Middle school reach these goals. In doing so, they hope to meet the **academic needs of diverse learners** as evidenced by **improved student engagement in mathematics concepts** and enhanced performance on **district assessments** and **state standardized assessments**.

Data: Colonial school district has utilized the Backmapping Model for Professional Learning to determine the professional learning needs for teachers. This included reviewing state and local student achievement data to determine an overall focus, analyzing curriculum alignment needs, and identifying educator learning needs based on observational data and teacher surveys/reflections. Initial analysis of student achievement data revealed that the scores at the middle school level have plateaued over recent years and decreased significantly with the new Smarter Balanced assessment in 2015 (see Figures 1-3).
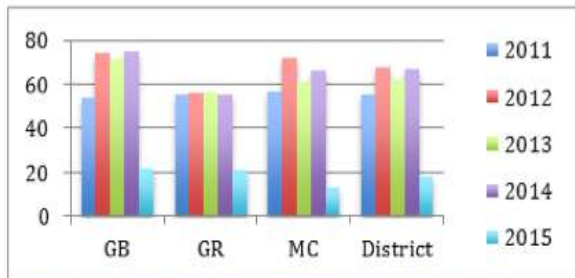

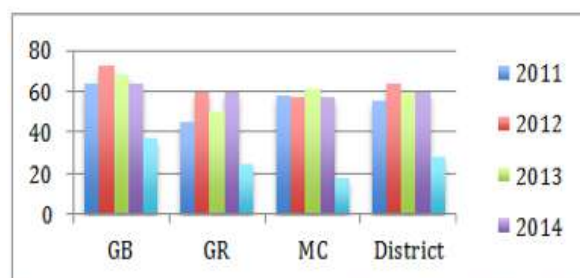Figure 1 Student Stat Achievement Data - Grade 6 (2011-2015)

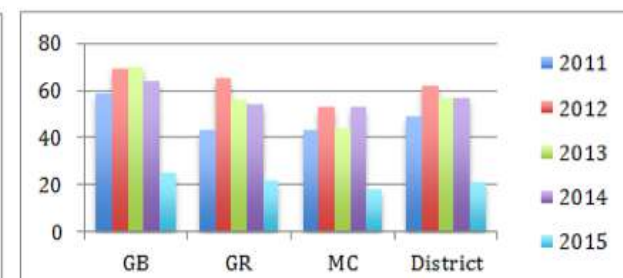Figure 2 - Student State Achievement Data - Grade 7 (2011-2015)

Figure 3 - Student State Achievement Data - Grade 8 (2011-2015)