

Mississippi Curriculum Guide Project Information for Mississippi Educators

The Mississippi Curriculum Guide Project needs your talent, your enthusiasm, and your insight.

We need the help of educators across Mississippi to help us design curricular units, create lesson plans and student materials, review units and lessons as they are drafted, and pilot units in your classrooms. And because we value what you have to offer this project, we are able to compensate you for the help you provide.

Here are the principal roles for Mississippi educators who are also working in schools and districts:

Unit Designer

- **The Role:** After receiving training in the *Understanding by Design* model of curriculum development, Unit Designers write units that enable students to explore specific ideas and meet identified standards. Unit Designers will be responsible for writing Essential Questions and Enduring Understanding, designing at least one complex performance assessment, and providing an outline of the learning activities that will occur during the unit. In some cases, Unit Designers will also provide detailed lesson plans for the unit.
- **Compensation:** This project will compensate all team members for work they produce, rather than the time they devote to the project. For a unit design that provides a strong general outline, a set of strong Essential Questions and Understandings, a promising performance task and other assessments, and an outline of a learning plan that is aligned with goals and assessments, we offer a stipend of \$200. For a final draft of these elements, including all teacher and student materials for assessments, we offer an additional \$200. In both cases, payment will be contingent upon the work meeting project criteria.
- **Schedule:** For teachers already comfortable with the *Understanding by Design* (UbD) model, work can begin immediately. For others, UbD training in Mississippi will begin in September. Your administrator will share the schedule with you when it is available.

Lesson Plan Developer

- **The Role:** Working from unit plans drafted by Unit Designers, Lesson Plan Developers add detail to the learning plan, creating daily lesson plans, including teacher instructions and student materials that make classroom learning possible. In most cases we will pair Lesson Plan Developers, asking two people to collaborate, via computer message boards, to create the complete learning plan.
- **Compensation:** This project will compensate Lesson Plan Developers for the work that they produce, rather than the time they devote to the project. Depending upon the scope of the unit and the materials that Lesson Plan Developers produce, we offer a stipend of between

\$200 and \$400 per unit for work that Developers do outside of school hours. If two educators collaborate to produce the lesson plans, they will share that stipend.

- **Schedule:** Unit Designers across the country have already begun design work on a variety of units. As we receive their first drafts, we will provide them to people who have received training in UbD (training begins in September) and are interested in taking on this role.

Unit Reviewer

- **The Role:** Unit Reviewers plan the necessary role of casting a critical eye on the work that Unit Designers and Lesson Plan Developers produce. Unit Reviewers will assess unit designs and lesson plans against a comprehensive rubric, adding personal comments about the strengths and weaknesses they see and making recommendations for improvement.
- **Compensation:** This project will compensate Unit Reviewers for the work that they produce, rather than the time they devote to the project. Unit Reviewers will receive a stipend of \$10 for each review of a unit plan that they complete outside of school hours, and \$20 for each review of the lesson plans connected to that unit.
- **Schedule:** Unit Designers across the country have already begun design work on a variety of units. As they complete their work, Lesson Plan Developers will begin to complete the lesson plans. As we receive first drafts from both groups, we will provide them to people who have received training in UbD (training begins in September) and are interested in reviewing units.

Unit Piloter

- **The Role:** As you might expect, plans that look wonderful on paper can fall flat in the classroom. To whatever extent possible, then, we would like to have Unit Piloters across the state teach completed plans in their own classrooms, then share their successes and challenges with us.
- **Compensation:** This project will compensate Unit Piloters for the work that they produce, rather than the time they devote to the project. Because state law prevents us from compensating teachers for work they complete during the school day, we are not able to offer payment for the pilot work itself. However, we will offer a stipend of \$25 per pilot week to teachers who are willing to provide a weekly report, written after school hours, on their experience in teaching the unit. We will provide a form for those comments, as well as asking you to provide any other insights you might have.
- **Schedule:** We expect to have units ready to pilot by the middle of September. As they are completed, we will send them to teachers who teach at the same grade level and subject area. These teachers will review the units with their principals or supervisors, decide whether they are able to fit them into their curriculum, and schedule a date to begin the pilot unit.

If you are interested in joining the project team, please complete the application form or contact Lisa Rodgers at lisa@authenticeducation.org or 609-466-8080.