

Teacher Collaborative Inquiry Fund: Guidelines for Use and Access

What is the Teacher Collaborative Inquiry Fund?

- A fund to enable Professional Development through teacher collaborative inquiry.
- A process which allows teachers to work with colleagues to strengthen their professional practice, deepen their understanding of teaching and participate in ongoing professional growth.
- Teachers exploring inquiry questions & sharing ideas/knowledge around effective teaching practices & learning principles.
- Improved student learning is not necessarily a direct outcome of the inquiry, but is the overall purpose.

What is Professional Development?

Professional development is a process of ongoing growth, through involvement in programs, services, and activities designed to enable teachers, both individually and collectively, to enhance professional practice. Together, the teachers and administrators in our district have agreed to guiding principles for professional development which can be found in the VSB/VTF Professional Development Handbook.

Formula for Funding Teacher Collaborative Inquiry

Formula for funding teacher collaborative inquiry:

Due to continued TOC shortages this year and the pursuant inability of collaborative inquiry groups to meet during the school day, the District Pro-D committee has met and agreed to continue with the following temporary, revised guidelines. These changes will be revisited during the school year.

Rather than follow the previous years' funding formula of providing two days of release time for each teacher participating in a collaborative inquiry group, the following supports will be available:

- Up to \$200 per group member to purchase professional resources relevant to the inquiry topic. These resources may include professional books, professional journals or magazines, professional development opportunities, guest speakers. It is not to be used to purchase classroom supplies, equipment, or technology ***.
- Up to \$25 per group member to support meeting incidentals (i.e. food, childcare, parking, space rentals). ***

*****Original Receipts must be provided for reimbursement, whether if it is an individual or school purchase, there needs to be proof of purchase.*****

- These purchases will be made by the teachers in the group, who will then submit their receipts and reimbursement form to their administrator for signature. Please forward all original documents to Ed. Centre, Superintendent's Office – Pro D. Please do not email. Make sure you keep copies.
- Teachers will be limited to participation in a maximum of two inquiry groups, including both

school-based and cross-district.

****It is understood that these inquiry groups will meet outside of instructional time at a time that is mutually convenient to the group's members as release time provision will not be an option this school year.

****Due to the fact that there is no longer a limit of number of release days per school, there is now no limit to the number of collaborative inquiry groups per school or to the number of participants in these groups.