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CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT/RESILIENCY

Role Reversal: Student Teachers

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ROLE REVERSAL:
STUDENT TEACHERS

Disseminator: Lyzia Miller
lyzia.teacher@gmail.com

For information concerning Ideas with IMPACT opportunities including Adapter and Disseminator grants, please contact:

Audrey Onyeike, Ideas with IMPACT Program Director
The Education Fund
305-558-4544, Ext. 113
Email: aonyeike@educationfund.org

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1 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The "Role Reversal: Student Teachers" project empowers students in grades 3 through 12 to become peer educators, cultivating leadership, collaboration, and communication skills. By engaging in peer teaching, this initiative fosters a deeper understanding of academic content and social-emotional learning (SEL) across a wide range of developmental stages. The goal is to build confidence, promote responsibility, and nurture empathy as students adapt their teaching methods to meet diverse learning needs of peers across grade levels.

Through this project, students will:

- Develop leadership by creating and delivering age-appropriate mini-lessons.
- Strengthen communication through clear instruction and responsive feedback.
- Build empathy by addressing peers diverse learning needs and challenges.
- Apply academic content in real-world teaching scenarios.
- Reflect on their roles as educators and learners to enhance personal growth.

This inclusive approach allows younger students to explore foundational skills while older students tackle complex topics, fostering a school-wide culture of shared learning. The project aligns with the Districts Framework for Effective Instruction, emphasizing SEL and student-centered learning.

2 FLORIDA STANDARDS

- SS.3.C.2.1 to SS.912.A.1.4 - Identify civic responsibilities and engage in inquiry-based learning (varies by grade level).
- LAFS.3-5.SL.1.1 and LAFS.6-12.SL.1.1 - Engage in collaborative discussions, building on ideas and expressing thoughts clearly.
- LAFS.3-5.W.2.4 and LAFS.6-12.W.2.4 - Produce clear and coherent writing tailored to task, purpose, and audience.
- MAFS.3-5.NBT.2.7 and MAFS.6-8.NS.1.3 - Perform arithmetic operations with numbers and decimals, using strategies appropriate to grade level.

3 COURSE OUTLINE/OVERVIEW

The "Role Reversal: Student Teachers" project engages students in grades 3 through 12 in designing and delivering mini-lessons on curriculum topics, such as math, science, history, or electives. Students work in small groups or cross-grade partnerships to select a topic, create a lesson plan, and teach it to peers, adapting their approach to suit different age groups. The project starts in classrooms and can expand to include cross-grade or school-wide presentations, promoting a collaborative learning environment.

Key activities include:

- Researching a topic and developing a grade-appropriate lesson plan.
- Creating visual aids or interactive activities tailored to the audience.

- Practicing delivery and incorporating peer and teacher feedback.
- Reflecting on their teaching and learning experiences.

The project supports SEL by encouraging empathy for diverse learners, effective communication, and a sense of community. It is flexible for all grade levels, with modifications for younger students (e.g., simpler topics, shorter lessons) and advanced challenges for older students (e.g., interdisciplinary lessons, teaching younger grades).

4 LESSON PLANS/TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES

4.1 September

- Introduce peer teaching through a discussion on qualities of effective teachers, tailored to each grade level (e.g., patience for 3rd graders, creativity for 9th graders).
- Show a grade-appropriate video on teaching strategies (e.g., TED-Ed for younger students, Khan Academy for older students, see Resources).
- Students brainstorm topics they feel confident teaching, aligned with their curriculum (e.g., basic shapes for 3rd grade, algebraic equations for 8th grade, historical analysis for 12th grade).
- Form small groups (2-3 students) or cross-grade pairs to plan a 5-10 minute mini-lesson (shorter for younger grades, longer for older grades).

4.2 October

- Students research their topic using classroom resources, library materials, or approved websites, with teacher guidance for younger grades.
- Provide a lesson plan template (see Lesson Plan section) tailored to grade level (simplified for 3rd-5th, detailed for 6th-12th).
- Students create visual aids (e.g., posters for younger grades, slides or videos for older grades) or hands-on activities.
- Conduct practice sessions with teacher feedback; older students may mentor younger groups.

4.3 November

- Students deliver mini-lessons to their class or a paired class (e.g., 10th graders teaching 5th graders).
- Encourage peer feedback using a rubric suited to grade level (e.g., smiley faces for 3rd grade, written comments for 9th grade).
- Students write a reflection (1 paragraph for 3rd-5th, 1-2 paragraphs for 6th-12th) on their teaching experience.

4.4 December

- Expand the project by having groups teach mini-lessons to other classes, grade levels, or at a school-wide event.
- Students create a "Teaching Tips" guide for future student teachers, with contributions from all grades.
- Host a "Student Teacher Showcase" where families and faculty view selected mini-lessons (live or recorded).

5 LESSON PLAN

5.1 Create a Mini-Lesson

Objective: Students in grades 3-12 will design and deliver a 5-10 minute mini-lesson on a curriculum topic to peers, tailored to their audiences age.

Duration: 4 weeks (integrated into regular class time).

Materials:

- Lesson plan template (provided below, with versions for elementary and secondary).
- Access to classroom resources (books, tablets, or approved websites).
- Art supplies for visual aids (paper, markers, etc.).
- Optional: Presentation software (e.g., Google Slides, Canva) for 6th-12th grades.

Steps:

1. Choose a Topic (Week 1): Students select a curriculum topic they feel confident teaching (e.g., addition for 3rd grade, photosynthesis for 7th grade, World War II for 11th grade). Encourage cross-grade pairing where appropriate.
2. Research and Plan (Week 2): In groups, students research their topic and complete the lesson plan template. Younger students focus on simple explanations; older students incorporate deeper analysis.
3. Create Visuals (Week 3): Students design age-appropriate visuals (e.g., drawings for 3rd grade, infographics for 10th grade) or activities (e.g., games for younger grades, debates for older grades).
4. Practice and Deliver (Week 4): Groups practice with the teacher or a peer mentor, then present to their audience. Peers provide feedback using a grade-appropriate rubric.
5. Reflect: Students write or discuss what they learned about teaching and learning (oral reflection for 3rd-4th, written for 5th-12th).

5.2 Lesson Plan Template

	Section	Details
Elementary (Grades 3-5):	Topic Goal	What will you teach? (e.g., Counting by 5's) What should your friends learn? (e.g., How to count to 100)
	Materials	What do you need? (e.g., paper, crayons)
	Steps	List 3 steps to explain your topic.
	Fun Activity	How will you make it fun? (e.g., a counting game)
Secondary (Grades 6-12):	Section	Details
	Topic	What will your lesson teach? (e.g., The water cycle) What should your classmates learn? (e.g., identify stages of the water cycle)
	Objective Materials	What do you need? (e.g., whiteboard, markers, diagram)
	Steps	List 3-5 steps to explain your topic.
	Engagement Activity	How will you make it interactive? (e.g., a quiz, group discussion and games)

6 STUDENT SAMPLE WORK

Students will produce:

- A completed lesson plan template (grade-appropriate).
- Visual aids (e.g., posters for 3rd-5th, slides or videos for 6th-12th).
- A reflection on their experience (oral or 1 paragraph for 3rd-5th, 1-2 paragraphs for 6th-12th)

7 RESOURCES

Websites:

- <https://www.ted.com/talks> (Search teaching strategies or peer learning)
- <https://www.edutopia.org> (Articles on student-led learning)
- <https://www.pbslearningmedia.org> (Grade-specific educational videos)
- <https://www.khanacademy.org> (Tutorials for 6th-12th grade topics)

Materials:

- Lesson plan templates (printable or digital, elementary and secondary versions).
- Art supplies (paper, markers, posterboards).
- Access to tablets/computers for research and presentations (6th-12th).