

Google Certified Teachers Program Overview



GTA @ The Googleplex 2008-2009 Deadlines

GTA Online Evaluation http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=CFAB3iqM5b_2fFfK_2fQ99aHqQ_3d_3d	June 27, 2008
Action Plan Submitted to Online Tracker http://docs.google.com	July 25, 2008
Mid-Year Update Posted to Online Tracker http://docs.google.com	November 21, 2008
Final Reflection Published on Blogger, Page Creator, or Docs	February 27, 2009
Final Update Posted to Online Tracker http://docs.google.com	February 27, 2009

Program Goals

- Introduce educators to the exciting possibilities of using new technologies, including Google's tools, in a school setting.
- Equip trainers with the knowledge and tools necessary to provide high-quality professional development for teachers to get the most from technology tools.
- Develop a community of educators that can support each other's work.
- Recognize the accomplishments and experience of Google Certified Teachers and get them excited about being change agents.
- Give Google Certified Teachers a positive exposure to Google and its work, and provide meaningful opportunities to give Google feedback on its efforts in K-12 education.
- Give educators an opportunity to experience an innovative 21st century working environment.

Google Certified Teachers are:

- Exceptional educators with a passion for using innovative tools to improve teaching and learning.
- Creative leaders who understand their local needs and can spread innovation as a recognized expert.
- Ambassadors for change who model high expectations, life-long learning, collaboration, equity & inclusion, and innovation.

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Expectations

1. Professional Development

Lead at least 3 professional development activities on how innovative tools can be effectively used in the classroom or school.

For example...

- > Hands-on Workshop
- > Peer Coaching Program
- > Large Group Presentations
- > Online Learning Events & Modules
- > Weekly Podcast Program
- > Weekly Blog Posts
- > Curriculum Development Workshop

2. Complete an Action Plan

- > Describe 3 Activities You Plan to Lead
- > Intended Audience
- > Intended Results
- > Projected Timeline
- > Peer Review

3. Submit your Action Plan details using the “Action Plan Tracker” – a Google Spreadsheet that you will be invited to “collaborate” on. Please be sure to only update YOUR ROW only.

4. Complete a Final Reflection

After completing your GCT activities, please publish your final reflection to the Web using Blogger, Google Docs, or Google Sites. Copy and paste the URL for your reflection into the GCT Action Plan Tracker (online spreadsheet).

Your reflection should be a 500-1000 words that includes the following information:

- your name, title, contact info near the top
- summary of the professional development activities you led, including how many teachers and/or students you reached
- the impact of these activities on teachers and students (i.e. measures of success)
- challenges you faced along the way
- the impact on your own personal growth
- a few ideas on how you can keep the momentum going in the future

Google Support

- Host and maintain the GCT Online Community (Google Group).
- Provide opportunities to give Google feedback on educational uses of tools.
- Additional educational resources.
- Invitations to assist Google at events.

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Action Plan Guidelines

The GTA Leaders will not provide individual feedback on plans, so here are some basic guidelines to keep in mind:

1. **Be as specific as possible when describing your planned activities.** You don't need to write formal instructional objectives, but in 2-3 sentences make sure you tell us exactly what tools you are working with, the type of activity you are doing, how often it will happen, and high level goals of the activity. For example, "Weekly podcast for high school social studies teachers with tips and lesson ideas for using Google Earth to meet state standards."
2. **During the planning stages, get as much feedback as possible from your colleagues** to best meet their needs. Whether you have informal discussions or conduct a formal survey, make sure you are focusing on content and skills that will have the greatest impact. Work their ideas into your plan.
3. **Plan a mix of activities** to meet the diverse needs of your teachers & students.
4. **Push yourself to try something new.** If you're great at hands-on workshops, you should still do that, but also try something else, like one-on-one peer coaching.
5. **Try to integrate these activities into your existing work** as much as possible, so you don't take on too much. We don't want to burn you out!
6. **Make sure you can measure your impact.** Knowing how to measure your success ahead of time helps you know what kind of data you need to gather. Hard data like the # of people who attended workshops, # of lesson plans created by teachers after a workshop, # of new student projects, etc. is always nice, but don't forget "soft data" like comments from teachers and students, changes in attitude, openness to new ideas, etc. Sometimes you can gather this through surveys and interviews, but audio and video recordings can be powerful as well.
Note: Our Action Plan tracking spreadsheet only requires you to provide the number of teachers reached through your activities; the remaining data should be included as part of your Final Reflection.
7. **Remember, it's not just about teaching tech skills.** Your plan should help classroom teachers see the big picture and use the best tools for the job. Don't force technology on them. Focus on good teaching and learning first, and then utilize the technology where appropriate. You may be surprised how much credibility you'll gain by telling people when it's NOT appropriate to use tech tools.
8. **Have one other GCT from your cohort review your Action Plan BEFORE submitting it.** You can team up with whoever you'd like, but we encourage you to pick someone from your innovation teams, so there is even coverage. Basically, we want you to provide each other with ideas and constructive criticism to make each plan as effective as possible. Essentially, you're serving as peer coaches to each other. And you may even want to check-in with each other from time-to-time to hold each other accountable and offer guidance. Please indicate the name of the GCT who reviewed your plan in the appropriate field on the Action Plan tracking spreadsheet.

