

Teacher Inquiry and Student Learning in Science

The overarching goal and objective of this project is to improve student understanding of physical science concepts and their ability to design and perform scientific inquiries by providing teachers with intensive and sustained professional development. The professional development will emphasize the role of inquiry and children's ideas in science teaching and learning.

The project can be broken down into discrete goals all of which contribute to improved student learning in science and which result from the Needs Assessment provided by the districts.

1. To improve teacher knowledge and understanding of physical science concepts, especially those identified by the physical science strand of the revised NH Science Frameworks.
2. To improve teacher knowledge of the pedagogy needed to develop student understanding of the physical science concepts identified by the Grade Level Learning Expectations of the New Hampshire Science Frameworks.
3. To promote teacher understanding of the role of children's ideas in science, how children develop scientific understanding, and the critical role of ongoing assessment in learning and teaching in science.
4. To establish an effective partnership and collaboration around teaching and learning in Science between Rivier College, an institution involved in science teacher preparation, and local elementary and secondary schools.