

Abstract

Achieving Excellence in Middle School Mathematics Teaching and Learning – Part 2 is the second year of a proposed three-year program to improve the mathematical abilities and content knowledge of middle school students. The primary partners are Plymouth State University and the school districts of Bedford, Epping, SAU 15 (Auburn, Hooksett* and Candia), Laconia, LinWood, Merrimack Valley, Nashua, Newfound, Salem, Shaker, Timberlane, and Winnisquam*. (* indicates a high needs district.) The partnership also includes SERESC and the NCES. Teachers in the partner school districts will become “Highly Qualified Teachers,” deepen their content knowledge, improve their teaching skills, and assist their schools in selecting and implementing rigorous standards-based curricula.

The primary activities of the project are to: (1) have non-HQTs develop plans to become HQTs in mathematics, (2) develop and deliver content courses based upon the needs of those teachers, (3) have scientists and mathematicians present two yearly seminars showing how mathematics is used, (4) develop a cadre of HQTs to become mathematics education leaders in their schools, (5) identify on-line content courses to help teachers become HQTs, and (6) help middle schools implement rigorous mathematics curricula. Three, 3-credit, graduate courses will be offered this summer, building on our year-one work. An academic-year course, in the fall of 2005, will be taught at PSU and transmitted via video to both NCES and SERESC.

An outside evaluator will conduct both formative and summative evaluations. A Governing Board will be created with representation from all partners to provide guidance to the project.