Project Abstract:

Making the Transition from High School to College (MaTHSC) laid the groundwork, positioned, and readied the Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH) to act as fiscal agent and lead Mathematics Learning Communities (MLC), a joint statewide secondary postsecondary partnership focused on providing professional development activities for high school and community college mathematics faculty to prepare New Hampshire high school graduates to be ready for college or work without remedial mathematics. MLC professional development supports the implementation of a “two-tiered math” strategy that is aligned with readiness for college level mathematics and is aimed at middle achieving high school juniors and seniors.

Two phases of planning and development culminate with this proposal to continue and institutionalize Mathematics Learning Communities. Phase I involved measuring the degree of math preparedness of three groups of students: those applying for admission to one of the seven system colleges; high school students enrolled in Project Running Start courses; and, finally, a pilot population of four hundred Career Technical Education students.

Phase II built on the findings of Phase I and concluded with recommendations for both a common CCSNH threshold (first for degree credit) mathematics course and a common System math placement examination cut-score and the piloting of a template for Senior Math at the high school level. The CCSNH course represents a break through as the first course developed cooperatively by faculty from seven colleges and the first common System-wide course of any kind.

The next phase of the project builds on current momentum by providing professional development for teachers at partner and affiliate high schools to deploy the two-tiered strategy and developing a plan to institutionalize Mathematics Learning Communities.