

Archived Information



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

I. Math Science Initiative Goal: Improving Teacher Quality

II. Standards-Based Instruction Workshops

This AFT initiative supports the goal of increasing teacher knowledge of mathematics and mathematics teaching as teachers focus on academic standards that are targets of their daily instruction. These workshops contrast traditional and SBI instruction from its planning to its end goal. During the workshops, teachers (and others) work in-depth with one academic standard (e.g., a math standard on area) using expected performance to develop learning experiences that will help students achieve the standard. Important to the discussions is reaching a common understanding of what it means in this school or district for students to “know” a concept or master a skill.

The workshops are intended to help teachers focus on the fundamental content of a standard and how it develops, thus helping to create a culture of deepening understanding of subject matter often understood only at a surface level and what students need in order to perform to the standard set. Such understanding is crucial for teachers preparing students to meet math standards that have been set in their districts and states.

III. Purpose

To help teachers and other district personnel raise achievement (in mathematics and other core subjects) by focusing intensely on specific content standards and how to help students achieve them, building common understanding of expectations and drawing on pooled knowledge.

IV. Accomplishments/Results

It is intended that districts/schools engaging in these workshops commit to providing such opportunities for teacher collaboration around standards and teaching on a regular basis. In this way, it is hoped that the process becomes a regular way of thinking as teachers plan.

V. Plan for the Next 12 Months

Expand the number of districts engaging in these workshops.