

Archived Information



Center for Collaborative Research & Education

K-12 Science Initiative Brief

Secretary's Summit Goal 1: Developing a Research Base

Tri-States LASER Progress Report & Needs Analysis

Conducted: 2002

Grade Levels: K-8

Location: New Jersey, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Connecticut

Primary Partners: DuPont, Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, Merck Institute for Science Education, New Jersey Statewide Systemic Initiative

Number Affected: 247 Tri-States Region LASER Team Leaders & Team Members

Project Purpose

Goals: To document progress toward implementation of strategic plans written by Tri-States LASER Region's school district teams that attended an NSRC LASER Strategic Planning Institute from 1998 to 2001.

To document challenges experienced by Tri-States LASER teams and to identify technical assistance to address those challenges as teams continue to implement their strategic plans for K-8 science reform in their districts.

Primary Activities: Development & Distribution of Survey Instrument; Data Collection & Analysis; Recommendations for Technical Assistance; Formal Report (Fall 2002).

Project Summary

This study investigated the progress made and challenges experienced by Tri-States LASER school district teams that attended an NSRC Strategic Planning Institute between 1998 and 2001 as they implemented their strategic plans. The study employed a survey format with two instruments (a Team Leader Form and a Team Member Form) to gather data about science curricula, professional development, materials, assessment, and community support for reform. Returned surveys represented 73% of the teams surveyed. The study reported extensive and detailed findings, including that while implementation was proceeding, districts lacked time and funds for adequate professional development, for operation of a materials center, and for science specialists. The *Report's* Summary includes Targeted Programs for Addressing Needs (i.e., technical assistance) and Leadership Action Points for Addressing Needs (i.e., policy actions).

Project Accomplishments/ Results

2002: Tri-States LASER Partners Initiate **Review of Project** (Post-LASER phase).

2002: Sponsored Tri-States **LASER Assessment Academy** for teams from 11 states.

Forward Plans

Partners will use the *Progress Report and Needs Analysis* to revise their initial strategic plan (written in 1997) 1) to reflect the current status of science reform and school district implementation in the Region, and 2) to address the needs identified by the reporting school districts.