

Archived Information

EISENHOWER REGIONAL MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE EDUCATION CONSORTIA PROGRAM

This is a federal program authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as amended by Title XIII, Part C of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994, and Title II of the Education Science Act of 2002. The program serves the United States and its territories through ten multi-state regional consortia. Although the portfolios of activities vary from one Consortium to the next, the Consortia as a group are engaged in a variety of activities to improve the nation's mathematics and science education including the direct delivery of technical assistance and professional development, the facilitation of planning teams and networks, and dissemination of information. These activities are designed to help build the capacity of states and schools to implement school improvement programs; coordinate federal, state, and local education plans and activities; and adopt, adapt, and implement promising and proven practices for improving mathematics and science teaching and learning.

Goal Area: Engaging the Public

The Consortia work closely with the Eisenhower National Clearinghouse for Math and Science Education to widely disseminate products (e.g., print, CD-ROM, and video) on a broad range of topics. While mathematics and science resources are the most commonly distributed products, materials that address instruction, teacher practice, school reform and systemic change account for a large part of the resources distributed to state agencies, public and private school districts, teachers, institutions of higher education, informal science entities such as museums, and community agencies, and parents. Each Consortium has a Web page, regional newsletter and listservs to extend their reach to the public. Recent data from a 2002 report* show that the Consortia collectively have had over 5 million contacts with customers interested in math and science education information and resources. The Consortia's most recent customer survey* demonstrate that 93 percent of the respondents indicated that the materials were of considerable value to their work. Plans for the next 12 months are to continue expanding their electronic dissemination efforts to the public.

Goal Area: Improving Teacher Knowledge

The Consortia's professional development activities range from brief one-time workshops to intensive, continuing efforts. These efforts focus on preparing teachers to have a strong background in mathematics and science, training teachers to engage in new and effective instructional strategies, and helping schools and school districts retain quality teachers with strong backgrounds in mathematics and science. Consortia activities are significantly targeted to educators who serve high-needs students, including that are underserved, or underrepresented in mathematics and science classes. The training and technical assistance that the Consortia provide have an impact on both teachers and students. Nearly all respondents to a recent survey* who received 12 or more hours of service indicated that Consortia-sponsored professional development helped them to improve their teaching. Plans for the next 12 months are to work closely with states and districts within each region to identify and address needs for implementing teacher quality requirements of NCLB.

Goal Area: Developing a Research Base

The ten members of the Consortia have been involved in sustained efforts as a national network to define and collect pertinent data that describe their services to clients and assess their effectiveness. The Consortia use multiple data collection methods such as observations, interviews, and surveys to assess the quality, usefulness, and impact of their services and products and to ensure understanding of the impact of their work. Plans for the next 12 months are to continue documenting their experiences for continuous reflection, harvesting lessons learned, and using these lessons to inform research and practice.

* <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/annualreport2002/eisenhowerconsortia.html>