

Archived Information

Portland (OR) Public Schools

Improving Teacher Knowledge

€ National Science Foundation Urban Systemic grant: Project Director

Purpose: Develop collegial learning communities in K-12 schools to improve math and science instruction, provide additional support to struggling students, partner with community and business to increase student achievement

Results: Increased achievement district wide, including among minority and poor students

Plan: Complete second and third year of project, with increased number of schools and students

€ Math facilitator workshops

Purpose: Develop leadership within schools to support discussion and collaboration to improve math instruction

Result: Increased implementation of standards based curriculum and improved student achievement.

Plan: Continue

€ Web-based professional development

Purpose: Develop web based streaming videos, newsletters and discussion forums for engaging and supporting elementary, middle, and high school teachers (<http://teachers.pps.k12.or.us/math/>)

Result: Increased teacher knowledge and communication

Plan: Develop more extensively

€ Algebra workshops

Purpose: Develop algebra as a K-12 subject to problem solve, describe patterns, discover relationships, and understand the language and structure of mathematics

Results: Increased teacher content knowledge, improved understanding of elementary and middle school mathematics, improved strategies for teaching students currently unsuccessful in high school

Plan: continue to offer to teachers

€ Every Day Counts workshops

Purpose: Use calendar math to incrementally deepen critical grade level concepts K-6, connect common language to formal mathematical symbols, use visual and physical objects to teach basic facts, and make connections between topics.

Results: Successful implementation of supplemental calendar program in Oregon, Washington, Texas, Georgia, Florida, New York and many other states.

Plan: Continue workshops

€ Summer Success, curriculum and workshops

Purpose: Middle school summer school curriculum, integrating major concepts in algebra, geometry, statistics, measurement, and number for students not experiencing success in regular middle school program. Materials include discussion, models, games, practice, and homework. Workshops focus on developing number sense and algebraic reasoning.

Results: No achievement data yet, significant use in a number of school districts

Public Engagement

€ Parent web page: <http://teachers.pps.k12.or.us/mathfamily/>

Purpose: Inform parents about what is taught in classrooms and suggestions for helping students.

Results: Parent engagement, parent evening informational meetings, parent classes, increased involvement in student's math programs, lack of "math wars."

Plan: Continue publication and forums

€ Parent math classes

Purpose: Three part classes for parents on how to help students with math

Results: Parent engagement, increased student interest and participation

Plan: Continue