

Archived Information

Providence Public Schools, Providence, RI

Contact Person: Tomás Ramírez, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum,
Instruction and Professional Development
(401) 456-9288; Tomas.Ramirez@ppsd.org

Goal area of activity:

Developing a research base; Improving Teacher Knowledge

Brief Summary

Providence Public Schools is one of the partnering districts involved in a comprehensive K-12 Math Science Partnership together with the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Pittsburgh and its Learning and Research Development Center, Los Angeles Unified School District, Denver Public Schools, and Madison Public Schools. The four major goals of the MSP (Core STEM teaching programs, student immersion projects, teacher preparation and professional development, and increased participation of minorities in math and science) are aligned to the Secretary's Mathematics and Science Initiative in the three goal areas of activities. Providence is in a unique position to make positive contributions to the development of the action steps.

Purpose

We see ourselves as being able to contribute in any of three goal areas, as needed. We have a strong association with research-based institutions that guide our work and direction. For example, we have been working with the Institute for Learning (Univ. of Pittsburgh) for the past four years in the areas of literacy and mathematics and have moved to increase the content knowledge of math and science teachers within a disciplinary literacy framework. Part of our work also involves building the content knowledge of building principals, assistant principals, and central office administrators to support the instructional goals of the district. Three years ago we also created a new division within the organization, the division of Family and Community Partnerships, which supports the dissemination of information to the public and enhances the participation of parents and community-based organizations in the district.

Accomplishments/Results

The result of our work is too early to quantify as of yet. Two years ago we adopted NSF supported curricula materials (Math Investigations, Connected Math) and have a five-year strategic plan in place for bringing inquiry-based science to the district. We have a professional development program that is grounded in research and practice and supported by a cohort of coaches assigned to individual schools.

Plans for the next 12 months

As part of our partnership with the MSP, we will begin implementation of our goals this year. We are presently engaged in developing the implementation plan and schedule for each of the four school districts and the collection of data that will support the evaluation and research base.