Mathematics and Science Leadership Support Networks

Facilitated by:
University of Kentucky, Partnership Institute for Math and Science Education Reform (PIMSER)
And the Kentucky Department of Education Math and Science Consultants

PURPOSE:
The Network will support mathematics and science leaders with implementation of the Program of Studies (POS) for Kentucky’s schools and the Core Content for Assessment, Version 4.1 to promote enduring understandings in all students that result in transfer from one grade to the next.

We invite your district and/or school to partner with PIMSER, the Kentucky Department of Education Mathematics and Science Curriculum Consultants, and the Regional Teacher Partner Facilitators to have one or more of your Mathematics or Science leaders (or aspiring leaders) become part of the Mathematics and/or Science Leadership Support Networks. At this time we are offering four workshops as a preview to more extensive networks that we hope to offer during the 2007-2008 school year. These networks have been in place for the past two years and present a wealth of resources that are explored by participants during 8 academic sessions and a 3-day summer institute.

GOALS:
- To develop knowledge in how to teach for student understanding and transfer in mathematics and science.
- To develop content and pedagogical content knowledge needed to implement the Kentucky Department of Education revised Program of Studies and Core Content in the areas of mathematics and science.
- Study and engage in dialogue around the latest research on school improvement, teaching and learning.

Targeted Participants:
Educational leaders (Assistant Superintendents, Instructional Supervisors, Principals, Department Heads, Curriculum Resource Teachers, Academic Performance Specialists, and District Math/Science Resource Teachers) charged with the task of assisting school(s) and/or the district with Mathematics/Science improvement efforts in grades K-12. These individuals may have full, part, or no release time. EILA Credit will be available to administrators.

The participant will be responsible for attending all meetings because each meeting grows on information provided at the last meeting. The workshops will be held at The Center for Cultural and Professional Development in Madisonville, Kentucky. The scheduled dates are as follows:

- December 8, 2006
- January 12, 2007 (with a snow date of January 30, 2007)
- February 9, 2007 (with a snow date of February 27, 2007)
- March 2, 2007

Registration will begin at 8:30 am and instruction will begin at 9:01 am for each meeting. Each session is expected to conclude around 4:30 pm (all times are based on the Central Standard Time Zone).

TOOLS:
Each participant will receive content specific books and other resources that will help to build a toolbox of materials to assist with providing leadership at the local level (e.g., school or district).

COST:
District: $395/participant for the four workshops. The Department of Education will provide funds to help provide materials and offset the cost of the facilitators and trainers who will work directly with the Network participants.

REGISTRATION:
To register, follow this link: http://www.arsi.org/registration/mslsnmad/ be sure to include Check # or PO #. Possible Sources of funding include: Title 1 Funds, Title 2 Funds, Rural Low Income Funds, or Special Education Funds.
Testimonials from Leaders who have participated in the Leadership Support Network in 2005-2006:

Benefits:
1. The latest information regarding Mathematics and Science initiatives and curriculum, instruction, and assessment directly from KDE Consultants. (e.g., this year we got to preview documents (revised POS and Core Content 4.0) and begin to discuss how to support our district and school in a proactive way).
2. The Network provides a model of what a professional learning community can be.
3. The Network provides for district impact.
4. The Network provides for reflection and sustained leadership growth.
5. The Network is a value for the money.

Provides a Model!
“The Network is a model to me of what a professional learning community can be. I have grown so much from the discussions, professional readings, and activities with people who are in a similar role in their districts. A big part of that growth has been because I feel a part of the group and can interact and discuss ideas in ways that I never would otherwise. Because of the ongoing professional development, I am much more effective at facilitating teacher cadres in my own district for purposes such as analyzing student work, analyzing program data to assess needs, and implementing best practices. In fact, without the leadership meetings, I probably would be pretty clueless about the best way of handling these tasks and the resources that can help!”

District Impact!
“Not only have I benefited from leadership network support meetings, but my district has benefited. We have become more aware of research-based practices and the strategies for managing teacher change. For example, last year we implemented a National Science Foundation exemplary Mathematics program which required a lot of follow up support for our district teachers. We applied knowledge and strategies from the meetings - the planning skills, the facilitation skills, and the knowledge of what we needed to do for the teachers and students. I am confident that without the PD on supporting teacher change that we would have had a much more difficult time - and may not have even been able to make the large scale changes we needed! “

Networking for Sustained Growth!
“Attending "sit and get" sessions at conferences just doesn't compare with the resources and contacts made during our monthly meetings. Certainly I still need and benefit from conferences, but with leadership network support meetings I get authentic follow up and assistance that is relevant to my own situation. Also, there is a lot of value to having a network or community of teachers whom I feel comfortable calling on for help. Often I have asked teachers from other districts for advice or consulting and vice-versa. We know each other's strengths and play on them.”

A Value for the Money!
“Without the leadership network support meetings, I would feel isolated and alone in my job since nobody else in my district has the same role of working directly with teachers on curricular and instructional issues. I always look forward to interacting with the other participants and learning from their experiences in their districts. I enjoy the collaborative atmosphere as we learn new strategies for improving our Mathematics and Science programs. I constantly look to the "toolbox" of resources from the meetings. I can't think of anyone else who offers the level of professional development and a time for reflection that I get at the Network meetings. I really hope other resource teachers get to experience this type of professional development. It is essential support for the work we do and well worth the cost! “

Feel free to contact the following Network participants if you have any questions about the meetings or the value to their growth and development as leaders.

Jennifer Francis
Resource Teacher
Powell Co. Schools
jennifer.francis@powell.kyschools.us

Natalee Feese
Mathematics Specialist
Fayette County District Office
natalee.feese@fayette.kyschools.us

Mike and Allison Mathews
Mathematics and Science Resource Specialists
Rowan County Schools
allison.mathews@rowan.kyschools.us

Marsha Maupin
District Assessment Coordinator
Madison County District Office
marha.maupin@madison.kyschools.us