SMART Start - New Math and Science Teacher Academy

For new K-8 math and science teachers

How can we cultivate new teachers who are strong in both pedagogy and content?

PIMSER's "SMART Start" (Science and Math Academy for 'Rookie' Teachers) is an ongoing professional learning community offering support for K-8 science and math teachers to help them succeed in their first five years of teaching. This academy will develop the tools and expertise to provide high quality instruction and leadership skills, as well as combat the problem of staff turnover.

Focus topics include:

- Characteristics of High Quality Instruction: classroom management techniques, learning climate, growth mindset, CHETL or HETL, PGES
- ELA Strategies in Math or Science: cultivating reading, writing, speaking and listening skills in our students
- Classroom Assessment for Student Learning: formative assessment (embedded classroom), summative assessment
- Engagement Strategies: talk partners, talk moves for academic discourse in science and mathematics, Total Participation Techniques
- Instructional Strategies: effective questioning, metacognition, addressing/challenging misconceptions through instruction, vocabulary and word wall strategies
- Afternoon sessions will be spent in either of the following groups:
  - Participate in integrated STEM experiences clustered in elementary or middle school
  - Participate in focused learning on implementing the Science/Engineering Practices and cross-cutting concepts OR the Standards for Mathematical Practice to create an engaging classroom

Audience
Math and Science teachers with 0-5 years' experience in the classroom, and teachers with an MIT

Note: Originally designed as a series of 6 meetings. The presenters will have to make choices on focus areas based on the number of days the district/school wants to commit.