

FY 2009 QUESTION NUMBER: 25

QUESTION:

Provide information on the readiness of teachers to accelerate elementary math. What training is being contemplated to make sure that the system remains current?

BUDGET PAGE REFERENCE: 1-3, 6-11

ANSWER:

A variety of support exists for the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) teachers to develop the mathematical knowledge needed to accelerate elementary mathematics. For the last three years, elementary teachers new to teaching Math 6 and Math 7 have had required summer training. This opportunity will continue for summer 2008. MCPS offers ongoing training for math content coaches (MCCs) and staff development teachers (SDTs). The training courses provide content knowledge and pedagogy for the MCCs and SDTs to support teachers in job-embedded professional development. *Lenses on Learning*, a course that develops understanding of mathematics teaching and learning, has been offered to elementary principals for the last four years to ensure that school-based administrators are able to support teachers as they accelerate in mathematics. The SDTs were provided the opportunity to take this course during the 2007–2008 school year.

The following list represents math training opportunities that are being planned for summer 2008 or during the 2008 – 2009 school year to ensure that the system remains current:

Training for Math 6 Teachers

This three hour session provides elementary teachers, new to teaching Math 6, who have not previously attended Math A training, with an overview of the Math 6 curriculum and strategies for implementation of Unit 1.

Training for Math 7 Teachers

These sessions, specifically for teachers new to teaching Math 7, focuses on algebraic thinking, concepts of ratio and proportion, and resources to plan Math 7 instruction. Participants have opportunities to engage in peer reflective conversations.

Increasing Students' Mathematical Proficiency and follow-ups

This course and follow-up sessions focus on the effective implementation of mathematical discourse within instruction. Participants engage in collegial discussions around the topic of discourse and analyze where their students are within the components of a math talk learning community.

Bridge to Algebra 2

A summer 2008 training course is planned for 125 high school teachers.

Math Content Coach Training

The planned training sessions will focus on math acceleration.

Algebra Lead Teacher Project

The training for this valuable initiative is scheduled to continue.

Digitized curriculum

As new curriculum is developed and implemented, professional development resources may be developed and posted electronically. This would integrate curriculum and support into one online location.

Lenses on Learning I

This course is designed to build elementary principals' capacity as instructional leaders in mathematics. Through readings, problem solving, video clips, and additional resources to support MCPS connections, principals gain a deeper understanding of mathematics teaching and learning, including issues of equity and implications for instructional leadership.

Lenses on Learning II

Through this course, designed for elementary administrators who have completed Lenses on Learning I, administrators will develop skills to help them be more effective observers in standards-based mathematics classrooms. Participants learn to focus on the mathematics content of a lesson, provide feedback to teachers, and engage teachers in collaborative post-observation conferences. In each three-hour session, participants will engage in mathematics problem solving, view and analyze videotaped classroom clips, and participate in reflective discussions about the teaching and learning of mathematics.

Lenses on Learning for Staff Development Teachers

This course is designed to build elementary Staff Development Teachers capacity as instructional leaders in mathematics. Through readings, problem solving, video clips, and additional resources to support MCPS connections, participants gain a deeper understanding of mathematics teaching and learning.

SDT: Deepening our Content Knowledge of Statistics - Elementary SDTs

This course is designed to allow elementary SDTs to enhance their own understanding of the math content within Standard 4, Statistics, in order to better support their teachers' implementation of the math curriculum. This is a repeated module from 2005-2006 that was extremely well-received by elementary SDTs.

SDT: Deepening our Content Knowledge of Number Relationships and Computations - Elementary SDTs

This course is designed to allow elementary SDTs to enhance their own understanding of the math content within Standard 6, Number Relationships and Computation, in order to better support their teachers' implementation of the math curriculum. This is a repeated module from 2005-2006 that was also extremely well-received by elementary SDTs.

SDT: Deepening our Content Knowledge of Algebra, Patterns and Functions - Elementary SDTs

Throughout this course, elementary SDTs will enhance their own understanding of the math content within Standard 1, Algebra, Patterns and Functions, in order to better support their teachers' implementation of the math curriculum. This is a repeated module from 2005-2006 that was extremely well-received by elementary SDTs.