



SW PA MSP is a comprehensive, K-12 math and science MSP funded in 2003. It involves urban, suburban and rural settings across the 11 counties surrounding the city of Pittsburgh. IHE partners have been 4 smaller private colleges and universities more heavily focused on teaching than research. K-12 partners include 45 local control K-12 school districts ranging in size from 1,000 to 7,000 students. The lead agency is the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, a publicly funded regional service agency, which also works with three other Intermediate Units as partners. The Partnership is governed by a Cabinet comprised of representatives of the core partners, as well as the leader of the Evaluation Team and the financial manager, who convene monthly to plan and monitor progress.

K-12

Challenge: K-12 teachers worked in isolation without means for connecting with colleagues.

Success: Teachers appreciate and value Professional Learning Communities as places to share and critique practice.*

Challenge: K-12 administrative turnover has been 75%+ at the district and building levels.

Success: Administrator involvement and awareness changes administrator attitudes and behaviors in supervision.*

Challenge: A major activity for successful implementation of professional learning communities is negotiating with competing reform agendas.

Success: The SWPA MSP had actively engaged with the state on policy making e.g. State Standards Aligned System, state standards revision, state assessment development.

Challenge: Even the most engaged and well practiced Teacher Leaders struggle to make the cultural shift to a focus on student learning. (rather than teacher behavior).

Success: Teachers Leaders embrace the importance of a focus on the “big ideas” of math and science to guide instruction. *

IHE

Challenge: Pennsylvania mandated that teacher preparation programs certify competency to teach the content specified in the K12 standards for pre-service teachers.**

Success: IHEs increased credit hours for math and science pre-service teachers --and revised 70 % of all math and science courses with the assistance of 39 MSP K-12 Teacher Fellows.

Challenge: IHE faculty had limited exposure to varying approaches to instruction.

Success: The majority of the faculty reported changes in instructional practices -- focused on student centered learning and pedagogical awareness.

Challenge: Many of the variables that influence student teacher placement are outside of the control of the IHEs.**

Success: There are now explicit, intentional IHE efforts to place student teachers with MSP cooperating teachers. As of Year 5, 71% have been placed with MSP participating teachers

K-12 Publications

Gooding, Julia; Metz, Bill, “A Blueprint for Cultivating Inquiry,” Science Scope, p.62 (2008).

Gooding, Julia; Metz, Bill, “Inquiry by Design Briefs,” Science Scope, p. 35 (2007).

Shaneyfelt, Samuel, “Lesson We Learned from the Learning Lab, Pennsylvania Administrator (2009).

Sofa, Ronald, “Beyond NCLB & AYP: One Superintendent’s Experience of School District Reform,” Harvard Educational Review (2008).

Zablotsky, Sarah, “Missions and Leaders: Adjusting to the Times,” The Pennsylvania Administrator, pg.12 (2008).

IHE Publications

Fisher, Matthew, “Educating for Scientific Knowledge, Awakening to a Citizen’s Responsibility,” Citizenship Across the Curriculum (2010). Heid, Christy; Biglan, Barbara, Ritson, Margie, “The Fish Kill Mystery: Using Case Studies in the Middle School Classroom,” Science Scope (2008).

Holdan, E.G., and M.M. Maxwell, “From Lecturer to Facilitator: The Impact of a Collaborative Effort,” International Journal of Learning, pg. 761, vol. 11 (2004).

Lias, A.R., S.K. Fowler, E. G. Holdan and M.M. Maxwell, “Developing a Deep Understanding of Elementary School Mathematics: A Staff Development Partnership”, International Journal of Learning, pg.73, VOL.12 (2006).

Peck, Sallie; Wood, Japheth, “Elastic, Cottage Cheese, and Gasoline: Visualizing Division of Fractions,” Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School, pg.208, vol. 14 (2008).