

TEACHERS SHARE! THREE KEY QUESTIONS ABOUT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Background Info

- Achievement gap in mathematics between the ELL high school population and non-ELL high school population demands attention
- TSUS MELL Initiative (www.tsusmell.org) is a major funding effort with a goal of improving:
 - Teacher efficacy
 - Mathematics teaching strategies and available resources for mathematics teachers
 - Mathematical academic success of ELL students

Lamar University Project Goals

1. Support mathematics instruction in Texas for English Language Learner (ELL) students, specifically students at the secondary level.
2. Identify the instructional, training, and professional development needs of mathematics teachers of ELL students.
 - Training needs may include in-service training, implementation of professional development programs, supportive instructional resources and tools, etc. ...
3. Compare the identified perceived needs with existing PD programs.

Targeted Audience

- Mathematics teachers throughout the state of Texas who currently teach or have taught a significant number of ELL students
- ELL/ESL/ESOL teachers
- Mathematics Curriculum Coordinators
- Others (i.e. self-contained elementary or middle school ELL teachers, administrators, ...)

Data Collected

- Survey distributions to mathematics teachers throughout the state
- Focus group interviews with teachers across state
 - 4 focus groups (southeast TX, central TX, west TX, and south TX) with secondary mathematics teachers and 3 with elementary teachers (southeast TX, central TX, and south TX)
 - Varied number of participants
 - Participants from different schools
 - Teachers selected from survey results and/or researcher/school principal recruitment
 - 2 hr focus group interview
 - Teachers were paid a stipend and a working lunch was provided
- Summer Professional Development Workshop
 - Held on campus of LU in the summer
 - Invite teachers from across state to participate in 1 wk workshop
 - Extremely positive feedback from participants

Discussion Time

- Small Group
- Entire Group

Discussion Questions

Focus group participants were asked the following questions:

1. What is good about ELL professional development in Texas?
2. What aspects of ELL professional development in Texas need improving?
3. What do you believe are the greatest professional development needs in Texas for enhancing secondary mathematics instruction for ELL students?

General Focus Group Findings

Focus group results indicate the following as teachers' perceptions of PD needs to better support mathematics instruction for ELL students:

1. Provide professional development **SPECIFIC** to improving mathematics instruction for ELL students
2. Provide professional development from experts with experience teaching mathematics to ELL students
3. Provide training in reading in the content area
4. Provide training that incorporates country specific math curriculum
5. Mandatory training for all teachers (not only the ESL/ESOL teachers)
6. Stick with a PD program for a significant amount of time
7. Provide training in specific mathematics content (**Comment from focus groups for elementary teachers)

THANK YOU!