BOSTON COLLEGE

Mathematics Institute

Partnerships Promoting Student Achievement in Mathematics

Partnerships Promoting Student Achievement in Mathematics (PPSAM) was formed to provide comprehensive support for districts working towards improving the quality of mathematics teaching and learning in the middle school. PPSAM is funded by Raytheon Company and the NOYCE Foundation. PPSAM provides professional development in mathematics content and training in specific units of the Connected Mathematics Project (CMP). The increased demand is for more rigorous mathematics for students at the middle school level. The goal of PPSAM is to deepen the foundational understanding of mathematics and develop problem solving strategies for teachers so they may, in return, provide a mathematically rich environment for their students.

The professional development provided by PPSAM includes summer academies, coaching, mentoring, teaching model lessons in individual teachers' classrooms, parent information sessions, parent mathematics workshops, video-taping lessons, study groups, and mathematics content courses. Professional development plans are crafted for the needs of specific districts. The underlying concern of Partnerships Promoting Student Achievement in Mathematics is to improve student achievement for all students. Much of the work in which PPSAM has been engaged takes place in urban districts. After three years in specific urban schools, student achievement has risen for all students as determined by both the Massachusettts Comprehensive Assessment System MCAS and the TerraNova Achievement test.

PPSAM is working effectively to increase public understanding, improve teacher quality, and has demonstrated high quality research.

The program continues in the manner described for the next 12 months.

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