



Transforming East Alabama Mathematics

The East Alabama Partnership for the Improvement of Mathematics Education

What Will It Take To Make TEAM-Math Work At Your School?

1. Teachers need to develop new knowledge (Hiebert, 1999).
 - a. Adopting a new textbook or implementing a new curriculum guide is not enough.
 - b. TEAM-Math professional development activities incorporate proven, research-based information.
2. Teachers also need opportunities for ongoing (measured in years) collaboration for purposes of planning (Hiebert, 1999), which includes the following characteristics:
 - a. Focused on the explicit goal of improving students' achievement of clear learning goals.
 - b. Anchored by attention to students' thinking, the curriculum, and pedagogy.
 - c. Includes opportunities to observe their practices in action and to reflect on the reasons for their effectiveness.
3. Structural changes must be made in how schools operate (Pourdavood, Cowen, & Svec, 2002):
 - a. Providing adequate time for mathematics instruction.
 - b. Establishing effective teacher leadership structures and accessing outside expertise as needed.
 - c. Restructuring the curriculum to become more focused.
 - d. Reexamining assessment practices.
4. Parents need to be informed about and involved in the effort to improve mathematics education (Peressini, 1997).
 - a. Parents can be a powerful resource to support reform efforts.
 - b. If not properly informed, they may undermine or derail your efforts.
5. Administrators should be aware of the complexity of reform and should avoid making decisions that unintentionally undermine the effort (Briars, 1999).
 - a. Administrators need to recognize and value the new instructional approaches.
 - b. Teachers need materials that support their efforts to change.
 - c. Teachers need embedded professional development and in-class support.
6. Teachers and administrators need to be aware of the research that supports the positive consequences of reform for all students. (See other fact sheets in this series.)
 - a. Be aware of disinformation that is spread on the Internet! Not everything you read is true!
 - b. Look for solid scientific research, not anecdotes designed to create dissension.
 - c. MathematicallySane.com is a good source of balanced information about math reform.
7. All parties involved need to be PATIENT. Improvement may not be immediate. However, it will be cumulative and long-lasting.