

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING THE DELAWARE MATHEMATICS COALITION

PURPOSE OF THIS MEMORANDUM

This Memorandum of Understanding defines the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder in the Delaware Mathematics Coalition. The Coalition is a partnership whose purpose is to improve K-12 mathematics teaching, learning, and professional development. The Coalition will support Delaware teachers in their efforts to help all public school children meet or exceed the Delaware Mathematics standards and assist students in becoming mathematically literate.

The Coalition is a partnership of Delaware public school districts, including charter schools, and the Department of Education (DOE). Advisors to the Coalition include representatives of the Delaware business community acting through the Delaware Foundation for Science and Mathematics Education (DFSME), and Institutions of higher learning. The Coalition and its affiliates will undertake joint projects that are funded through outside grants and community-related mathematics organizations.

VISION of the DELAWARE MATHEMATICS COALITION

The Mathematics Coalition envisions classrooms in which confident and competent problem solvers are developed. All students and teachers are productively engaged in challenging, standards-based mathematics, and are supported by knowledgeable instructional leaders.

MISSION of the DELAWARE MATHEMATICS COALITION

The mission of the Mathematics Coalition is to identify and endorse research-based best practices in mathematics instruction. We advocate, at the state and district level, for the implementation of these practices in every mathematics classroom so that all students achieve the mathematics proficiency necessary to succeed in post-secondary education and the workplace.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- The purpose of the partnership is to support continuous standards-based improvement of mathematics education in Delaware schools through many levels of leadership including administration, specialists, lead teachers, and classroom teachers.
- Adoption and implementation of standards-based curricula is the responsibility of individual school systems. The Coalition will assist them in this endeavor and will provide cost effective standards-based mathematics professional development programs.
- Costs will be shared in a way that will equitably benefit all partners.
- DFSME will seek to coordinate business support for implementation of standards-based mathematics education for Delaware students.

GOVERNANCE OF THE COALITION

The Coalition will be governed by a Coalition Board made up of one representative from each school district. Charter schools will be considered a "district," and the collection of them will have one vote. The Advisors to the Board will include the Executive Director of the Mathematics Coalition, the DOE Education Associate for K-12 Mathematics, the DOE Director of Curriculum, the Director of the DFSME, the Director of the Mathematics and Science Educational Resource Center (MSERC) at the University of Delaware, Project Directors of grants that support the work of the Coalition, and such others as the Coalition Board deems appropriate.

The purpose of the Coalition Board is to:

- Establish and approve operating policies and practices for the Coalition that promote the goals of improving mathematics education,
- Set and approve the annual budget for the Coalition and monitor expenditures,
- Take a leadership role in developing and overseeing a strategic plan for K-12 mathematics education in Delaware and,
- Promote partnerships among the K-12 system, higher education and the business community.

Board Operations:

The Coalition Board will be led by elected co-chairs (no less than two, and up to three people elected annually from district representatives, preferably from different counties). A Coalition Steering Committee will be made up of the elected co-chairs, along with the Math Coalition's Executive Director, representatives from the Department of Education, a representative from higher education, and the Executive Director of the Delaware Foundation for Science and Mathematics Education. The Steering Committee will meet at least once each quarter to plan meetings. They will also undertake other tasks as appropriate.

For issues requiring a majority vote, eligible voters shall be limited to one representative from each district. Charter schools will be considered a "district," and the collection of them will have one vote.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Department of Education endorses the Delaware Mathematics Coalition as an approach to helping students meet the Delaware Mathematics Standards through the support of a coordinated, comprehensive, coherent approach to professional development for teachers. DOE will work with the Coalition to support standards-based K-12 mathematics programs as follows:

1. Assist the Delaware Mathematics Coalition in the development of funding sources to maintain Coalition activities.
2. Support professional development programs aligned with the mathematics Standards and GLEs through the leadership of the Education Associate for K-12 Mathematics.
3. Support an independent evaluation of the professional development programs and their impact on student learning in mathematics.
4. Act as fiscal agent for non-MSP funded activities of the Coalition through the leadership of the Education Associate and the Director of Financial Management.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE DELAWARE MATHEMATICS COALITION

The Delaware school districts and charter schools participating in the Mathematics Coalition support the implementation of the comprehensive, standards-based K-12 mathematics curriculum in our schools. The goal is to bring about systemic change in the teaching and learning of mathematics in Delaware classrooms.

As members of the Coalition, the school districts and charter schools agree to:

1. Use standards-based mathematics curriculum as the core district/charter curriculum at grades K-12.
2. Support professional development associated with the use of standards-based mathematics with the goal of providing professional development at all grade-levels within an agreed-upon time frame.
3. Identify, in cooperation with program leadership, mathematics specialists who will support lead teachers and be responsible for program implementation and professional support of teachers throughout the district. It is expected that the mathematics specialists will be content and pedagogical leaders.

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4. Support professional development for all principals and selected administrative personnel in participating schools on standards-based instruction, including issues of student assessment, teacher evaluation, district/school mathematics curriculum maps, and district/school mathematics program.
5. Collect and provide data to assess progress in the implementation of the K-12 mathematics program; cooperate with DOE in assessing the impact on student learning and achievement.
6. Promote partnerships with other school districts and local businesses, engaging local industry personnel to support the curriculum implementation process in classroom instruction and school activities.
7. Insure that district curriculum is aligned with the state Mathematics standards.
8. Work towards integration, both among mathematics topics and between mathematics and other areas (language arts, science, career and technical, etc.) as appropriate, to meet desired student outcomes.

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We agree to join the Delaware Math Coalition partnership in professional development programs offered for the purpose of improving the K-12 mathematics teaching in Delaware to assist the students in becoming mathematically literate.

Signed:

Marian Wolak, Ed. D.
Director, Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development

Date

Linda Rogers, Ed. D., Associate Secretary
Teaching and Learning Branch

Date

Lilian Lowery, Ed. D., Secretary of Education
Delaware Department of Education

Date



6/26/11

Date

MOT Charter School District