



The TEACHER CENTER of Broome County
Teacher Study Group Grant Award
2002-2003

FINAL REPORT
DOCUMENT PROCESSES AND OUTCOMES

STUDY GROUP TOPIC: Special Education and Math Teachers Co-Teaching

GROUP MEMBERS: Amy Mercik, Tammy Balles, Carrie Broughton, Jim Mercik, Ann Marie Faughnan, and Gary Wahl

The final report must be word-processed and submitted both in print and on disk using this form. Include information under each of the following headings.

Describe the initial goal of the group noting any adjustments that had to be made as time passed.

The initial goal of the group was to create three math units that can be co-taught with the Math and Special Education teachers on the three teams at our school. We wanted to make sure that we incorporated NYS Math 8 exam questions and life skills applications.

Describe the ACTION PLAN that the group followed.

Our original action plan was to pick three chapters from the math textbook that we use and plan lessons for the chapters. At the first meeting we were going to pick the chapters that we wanted to focus on and begin planning our chapters. At meetings two and three we wanted to plan our chapters and create any activities that went along with them. At our fourth meeting we wanted to share our chapters with the other groups, so that we could get feedback from each other.

Describe how the action plan was implemented.

At the first meeting we picked the three chapters that we wanted to create co-taught lessons for. It was interesting because the three math teachers all had the same chapters in mind. Then we broke up into our special education/math teacher groups. Each group spent the rest of the meeting mapping out their chapter and brainstorming ideas for the chapter. At our

second and third meeting we worked on planning the chapters. We all used the same format, so when we typed up our stuff and put it all together in our binders, it would be easy to follow. For each section of the chapter we had to come up with notes and activities that could be done in class. We also had to come up with quizzes, tests, and vocabulary activities. All the activities that we came up with we had to create. At the fourth meeting we typed our lesson plans onto the computer, so that it was easier to read. We also finished up any activities that went along with the lesson.

How has participating in this study group changed you as a teacher? Have any of your teaching practices changed?

Our group has a better understanding of exactly what it takes to put together a comprehensive co-taught unit. We realize that it takes a lot more time than we thought before. We know that if we truly want to co-teach other units throughout the year, we need to make the time during the year to dedicate to creating the units. All three groups felt that when we put our heads together we were able to come up with better activities to support the lessons.

What evidence is there that student achievement is improving as a result of participating in this study group? What kind of differences are you observing in your students?

Because we have not implemented our units yet we cannot show any evidence that there is improved student achievement as a result of participating in this study group. And we cannot observe any differences in our students. We do hope that as a result of our participating in this study group, the students test scores will be higher and they will have a better understanding of the ideas in our chapter due to the fact that we have implemented our units in a co-teaching approach.

What evidence is there that the goals of the study group have/have not been met?

The main goal of our study group was to create three co-taught math units, which we did. We were unable to share our units with each other because it took a lot longer to plan and create our units. We do plan to share our units at the beginning of the year with the other teams, so that we can still get feedback from the rest of our group. If we do this at the

beginning of the year, we will still have time to make changes if need be.

Comment on the value of the study group process? Did it work for you?

Our group worked well in the study group format, particularly because we already have worked with each other for a least one-year. Learning how long it takes to create a good, sound co-taught math unit was invaluable. We all have a better understanding of the work it takes. We felt being part of the study group was very beneficial and we would do it again.

How can we make the study group program better?

We do not feel there needs to be any changes to the study group program. It worked very well for us and we are truly grateful we got to be a part of it. Thank you!