



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

FINAL REPORT
DOCUMENT PROCESSES AND OUTCOMES

STUDY GROUP TOPIC: Integrating Calculators

List of group members: JoAnn D'Angelo; Laura Kelso; Todd Schipplick; Mary Burkett; Rosemary Calabretta; Ann Reichlin

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.

View video tapes on the TI-83 plus; learn new aspects of the TI-83 plus; implement *some* of these new aspects in the classroom and make connections with the regents preparation and the proper use of the TI-83 plus.

Describe the ACTION PLAN that the group followed.

View video together; discuss the relevance of the various options that the TI-83 plus afforded our students.

Describe how the action plan was implemented.

The group viewed a series of videotapes demonstrating the various facets of the TI-83 plus calculator. Upon completion of each tape, the group members discussed the uses of the newly learned operations in the classroom. Group members worked together to clear up common issues with the calculator and also to determine effective ways to present the more confusing aspects of the calculator. Since then, the members have worked to include some of the new operations in their lesson plans.

Evaluation of the impact of the study group effort on teacher/student performance.

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

The teaching practice changed in so far as we were able to use the calculator more readily and respond more efficiently to students' questions regarding the use of the TI-83 plus.

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

Some group members have demonstrated various new techniques to their students and report an improved use of those functions from their students, but the overall increase in student ability is not notable since the workshop took place so late in the year and many relevant topics had already passed. We expect to see more fluency next year as these topics are introduced on the calculator and in the traditional teaching.

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

Upon finishing the videotapes for learning the Texas Instruments Calculator, more “hands on” work is necessary. Some of the learning moments happened quickly and information wasn’t thoroughly allowed to settle in. Sometimes drawing the proper connections to the topics presently being taught were not made.

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

The study group process worked and all members were pleased with the chance to work together and learn together.

How can we make this study group program better?

Our study group could have been improved by the allotment of more study sessions in order to implement the group’s goals, such as the discussion of teaching strategies to use the information obtained. Also, the group should have been started earlier in the school year so that teachers would have been able to use most of the information the same year.