

Identifying Professional Development Needs in Math: A Planning Tool for Grades 3 - 7

Description: This resource identifies professional development needs specific to mathematics. It includes a series of guiding questions that help SEAs evaluate their existing programs and identify professional development activities that meet their needs. It is designed to be used by Regional Comprehensive Centers (RCCs) in their work with State Departments of Education (SEAs) but may also be used by SEAs and districts independently. A Word version of the tool itself is also provided for easy use.

Information Level: novice/intermediate

Intended Audience for Internal Knowledge Development:

State: grants, professional development

District: planning, professional development

School: planning, professional development

Intended Audience for External Application/Training:

State: professional development

District: professional development

School: professional development

| To expand RCCs' capacity, this activity or resource: | |
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| Helps the RCC help states accomplish a goal or solve a problem. | This resource provides a clear tool based on research for determining the professional development needs of teachers. |
| Helps the RCC help states improve or support an ongoing state program, policy, or practice. | It provides clear instructions and a well-designed tool to guide schools in determining the most needed areas for math professional development. RCCs can assist states in framing their thinking about how to incorporate in their professional development offerings. |
| Helps the RCC help states plan or initiate a new state program, policy, or practice. | It provides solid research-based direction for determining professional development needs that can be integrated into grant language and guide the awarding of grants for math professional development. |
| Helps RCC improve states' ability to work with districts. | It is an easily disseminated tool that SEAs can share with districts and schools. |

Suggested Dissemination Strategies:

- Inform state DOE of tool and its purpose.
- Provide opportunity for follow up conference calls for questions and discussions of tool.
- Assist SEA with plans to both disseminate the tool to districts/schools.