

Elementary Mathematics Laboratory Class: Expansion and/or Scale-Up
An Opportunity to Scale or Sustain an Existing TEI project
Teacher Education Initiative Request for Proposals 2007-2008

General Instructions

This sketch is intended to provide a frame that defines an opportunity to scale or sustain a particular project that is part of the Teacher Education Initiative (TEI). Should you be interested in undertaking work described in this sketch, please submit a completed Concept Paper, not more than 4 pages, to TEI Project Manager Francesca Forzani (fforzani@umich.edu). Members of the TEI Steering Group will respond to your concept paper within three weeks. If your concept paper is accepted, you will be asked to develop a Logistics and Products Plan detailing your vision of a timeline for this project. If your concept paper is not accepted, you may arrange to meet with one of the Steering Group members to discuss your proposal and the possibility of resubmission.

Summary: During Summer 2007, the TEI collaborated with faculty members and graduate students in Mathematics Education to offer a mathematics laboratory class for fifth-graders from Ypsilanti, Michigan. The Elementary Mathematics Laboratory Class (EML) took place every morning for two weeks, and offered opportunities not only for the participating children to develop mathematics skills, but for researchers, teacher educators, and student teachers from the University of Michigan, surrounding school districts, and other universities and school districts to engage in collective instructional design and to study the practices of teaching and teacher education. The experience was productive for many. We are interested both in offering similar laboratory classes in other subject-areas and to expand the EML itself so that it offers additional learning opportunities for children and more hands-on opportunities for practicing teachers and student teachers to work directly with children to improve their own teaching practice with guidance and support from veteran teacher educators.

We request proposals for summer laboratory classes in subject-areas other than mathematics, and for either expansions of the current EML or new summer programs that will offer special opportunities for student teachers or practicing teachers to work with children in instructional situations in specially focused ways, under the supervision of teacher educators.

Purposes:

- To develop more opportunities for student teachers and practicing teachers to improve their teaching practice
- To serve the learning needs of area schoolchildren
- To create structures for developing our own practice on campus as teacher educators
- To further develop the School of Education into a laboratory environment for productive experimentation with the practices of teaching and teacher education

Potential Participants: Teacher education faculty and graduate students, teacher education students, practicing teachers from area districts and from around the country, children from area school districts.

Opportunities to learn the work of teaching or teaching teachers:

- For student or veteran teachers, structured opportunities to develop specific teaching practices, under direct supervision, and with coaching and immediate feedback
- For UM faculty and graduate students, opportunities to experiment with and develop their own teaching and teacher education practices

Potential resource requests: This is a labor- and potentially equipment- and space- intensive undertaking. Depending on the proposal, the TEI may be able to offer significant help with start-up costs, and to assist with identifying sources of additional support.