

# Mathematics Coaching Supporting English Learners Project Overview

## **Overview:**

With funding from the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) at the U.S. Department of Education, Education Development Center (EDC) is developing and studying a set of professional development and instructional coaching materials to support middle schools in developing mathematical understanding and academic language for students who are English Learners (ELs).

The MCSEL program involves two main components:

- *Eight monthly three-hour seminars* for middle grades mathematics teachers with students who are ELs in their classes. The seminars focus on important mathematical content from grades 6-8 standards (e.g., rates and ratios, area measurement, problem-solving) and help teachers develop their understanding of how strategies for promoting language access and development are intertwined with mathematics content. Particular emphasis is given to developing students' diagramming and mathematical reasoning in ways that interweave the development of language and mathematical understanding, and that tie to the CCSS.
- *Seven classroom inquiry cycles* (CICs) to complement and supplement the seminars, allowing mathematics teachers to try out activities and strategies learned during the seminars with the support of an instructional coach. Each CIC includes a pre-conference, a lesson observation (by the instructional coach), and a post-conference to discuss evidence the coach collected about student understanding and language development. The CIC protocols build coaching capacity and can be used in future work in the school.

## **Current Status of MCSEL:**

The MCSEL project is currently in its final year. Seminar and CIC materials have been field tested in three districts to inform revisions to the materials and to learn about the use of the materials. Data analysis is underway and findings will be disseminated through a variety of outlets in the year ahead. Information about future presentations or articles will be posted at [mathandlanguage.edc.org](http://mathandlanguage.edc.org). You can also contact Mark Driscoll ([mdriscoll@edc.org](mailto:mdriscoll@edc.org)) or Johannah Nikula ([jnikula@edc.org](mailto:jnikula@edc.org)) with questions.

## **Funder Information:**

The research reported here was supported by the Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, through Grant R305A110076 to the Education Development Center, Inc. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not represent views of the Institute or the U.S. Department of Education.

