

With the support of the National Science Foundation, Education Development Center, Inc. and Horizon Research, Inc. are conducting a research study: "Fostering Mathematics Success of English Language Learners: An Efficacy Study of Teacher Professional Development." A key aspect of this study is examining the effects of the Fostering Geometric Thinking Toolkit professional development materials (FGTT) on middle grades teachers of English Language Learners (ELLs) for the purpose of informing and enhancing efforts to improve the mathematics achievement of ELLs in middle grades.

We are currently in the process of recruiting middle schools with substantial numbers of English language learning students.

Interested districts would need to:

- 1) identify at least 6 teachers committed to engaging with the FGTT professional development for 40 hours (typically, 20 two-hour sessions) over the course of a school year;
- 2) identify a local facilitator, who can be a math supervisor, coach, teacher leader, or teacher educator to lead the FGTT professional development for their group of teachers; and
- 3) have their participating teachers provide data, including pre-post teacher knowledge assessments and instructional surveys.

Please note that a few randomly selected teachers will need to be observed, and those selected teachers would need to identify a few students who can be videotaped while working on mathematics problems.

The incentives for participating districts include:

- 1) FGTT materials and training for the facilitator;
- 2) Compensation for participating teachers and facilitator.

A first cohort of groups will start their participation in September 2009, with training for their facilitators in July 2009.

If you know of any schools or districts that might be interested in participating in this study, please have their representative contact Co-Principal Investigator Mark Driscoll at mdriscoll@edc.org or the Project Coordinator, Amy May at amay@edc.org, by Friday November 14. At any time, we would be very willing to send a

short study description that provides more detail about the data collection requirements and the incentives.

Thank you for your time.

Mark Driscoll