

**National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform (The Forum)
Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) Grant
CFDA Number: 84.367D**

Absolute Priority #1: Moderate Evidence of Effectiveness and Absolute Priority #3: Professional Development of Teachers of Academic Subjects and Competitive Priority #1 Strong Evidence of Effectiveness and Competitive Priority #4 Supporting High-Need Students

Power of Two: Pairing Literacy and Numeracy Professional Learning for Middle-Grades

Teachers meets the purpose of SEED by providing professional development to increase the effectiveness of teachers of academic subjects in two of the content areas that have been identified as essential for keeping students on-track for graduation—mathematics and English language arts (Balfanz, 2007). The grant will work in four states (Michigan, North Carolina, Illinois, and California) that are part of the Forum’s eighteen affiliates of Schools to Watch. The study includes 96 intervention and control 6th or 7th grade classrooms. The initiative will improve educator knowledge, understanding, and skills in teaching of English language arts and mathematics through the application of Focused Instructional Modeling - Mathematics (FIM) and Academic Language Development (ALD) pedagogy. The goals are: 1) increase student performance on math and English language arts assessments as a result of increasing teacher effectiveness through the use of FIM and ALD and 2) improve teacher effectiveness through the use of FIM and ALD in mathematics and English language arts for high-need students.

Outcomes include increased teacher use of effective mathematics/ELA strategies and routines; increased self-efficacy as teachers of mathematics and ELA; improved student confidence in their academic dispositions and academic behaviors; and increased student use of FIM and ALD strategies. This grant provides the field with a clearer path for improving student performance through effective middle-grades teacher preparation. **National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform, P O Box 224, Savoy, IL 61874, Deborah Kasak, Executive Director, 217-351-2196.**