AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

I. Math Science Initiative Goal: Improving Teacher Quality

II. Mini-Institute: Improving Mathematics Teaching and Learning

As part of its Pre-QuEST* activities, AFT will sponsor a 5 1/2 –hour mini-institute on Improving Mathematics Teaching and Learning. The goal of this interactive session is to engage teams from local school districts or schools and teacher leaders in understanding what we know about mathematics curriculum, teaching, learning, and professional development. The implications of this knowledge for schools and mathematics instruction will be examined. The prime source documents for the findings shared will be TIMSS and the consensus report from the National Research Council, Adding It Up: Helping Children Learn Mathematics. We will further draw on the work of researcher Deborah Ball, Liping Ma, Japanese lesson study, and AFT’s Thinking Math program.

III. Purpose

To provide a knowledge base and practical suggestions that district teams can use to inform improvements in mathematics programs, teaching, and learning.

IV. Accomplishments/Results

Participants should leave with tools to help them assess math curriculum, instruction, and support in their districts/schools and consider their next step(s) to improvement.

V. Plans for the next 12 months

This workshop is scheduled for the 2003 AFT QuEST Conference and will be revised for future venues based on that experience.

* QuEST stands for Quality Educational Standards in Teaching