



## Mathematics and Science Partnerships Program Southern Aroostook Math & Science Partnership 2008–2011

In July 2008, the Maine Department of Education awarded the Great Schools Partnership a \$199,104 grant to coordinate the Southern Aroostook Math and Science Partnership, a collaborative effort to increase mathematics and science achievement in four Maine public schools: East Grand School, Katahdin Middle/High School, Southern Aroostook Community School, and the Region II School of Applied Technology. To help ensure student preparation for higher education, the mathematics and science faculty of Northern Maine Community College were enlisted to be partners in the grant. The grant is an extension of the U.S. Department of Education's Mathematics and Science Partnerships program, which aims to improve the academic achievement of elementary and secondary students in the content areas of mathematics and science through higher-quality instruction.

As the lead coordinator and support provider for the initiative, the Great Schools Partnership is working with the four public schools and Northern Maine Community College over the course of three years (2008–2011) to increase student achievement, improve the content knowledge of teachers, strengthen and align curricula across schools, and enrich collegial and institutional relationships across the math and science programs in the Southern Aroostook region. To address identified instructional, curricular, and professional-learning needs of participating schools, the project's four main components include (1) the creation of Professional Learning Communities within and among partner faculties to increase collegial and interdisciplinary collaboration; (2) the delivery of intensive, multi-day professional-development seminars designed to enhance content knowledge and expand the instructional repertoires of participating teachers; (3) the development of inquiry-based science and mathematics curricula that emphasize meaningful long-term investigations; and (4) the implementation of the iWalkthrough system to facilitate peer observations and data-informed self-reflection and decision-making.

The Southern Aroostook Math and Science Partnership is committed to realizing long-term, sustainable improvements in teaching and learning—regardless of changes in staffing or leadership—through enhanced regional collaboration, job-embedded professional development, data-driven strategic planning, and curriculum development and alignment. In addition to connecting mathematics and science educators across the region to enhance content knowledge, instructional repertoires, and program alignment, the Partnership is providing Professional Learning Community training to all participating faculties, organizing regular “Dine and Discuss” evenings with experts from Maine's scientific community, and conducting classroom observations and data-analysis sessions using the iWalkthrough system.

For more information about the Southern Aroostook Math & Science Partnership:

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