

iDiscovery's Reform That Works: Phase III (OBR)

Funding Agency:
Ohio Board of Regents (OBR)

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Evaluation:
5 Years
\$150,000

Ohio's Evaluation and Assessment Center for Mathematics and Science Education (E & A Center) is evaluating a unique learning environment. In *iDiscovery*, teachers are involved in web-based learning communities during the academic year as follow-up to *Discovery's* summer professional development institutes.

The evaluation focuses on the extent to which teachers can (a) change their instruction to include more inquiry activities; (b) access the best practice materials available on the Ohio Resource Center (ORC) for Mathematics, Science, and Reading's website; and (c) use those materials effectively in instruction. The evaluation monitors access to and the use of web-based learning communities. In addition, the evaluation assesses spread of use (i.e., how often and the extent to which teachers in the learning communities shared their new knowledge and skills with others in their school or district).

Previous results indicate that teachers more frequently use the Internet and inquiry-based instruction after participation. Teachers used the Internet to (a) find lesson plans or units; (b) find new ways to use technology (e.g., graphing calculators, probes, etc.); (c) participate in online chats with other teachers; and (d) communicate with other participating faculty and teachers.

This evaluation reinforces the E & A Center's capacity to evaluate an online professional development project.