

Southwest Ohio Science Institutes, Grades 3-6 [SOSI] (ODE)

Funding Agency:

Ohio Department of Education (ODE)

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Evaluation:

3 years

\$150,000

Ohio's Evaluation and Assessment Center for Mathematics and Science Education (E & A Center) serves as an evaluator for the Southwest Ohio Science Institutes, Grades 3-6 (SOSI). SOSI is a professional development program for science teachers, grades 3-6 in southwest Ohio. The project's goals are to (a) enrich existing grade-level modules and develop new second year grade-level modules, (b) enhance the science teachers' understanding of and capacity to use the Ohio Academic Content Standards, (c) develop deeper science content knowledge and teachings skills, (d)

enhance the sustainability of professional development, and (e) improve student science achievement.

The E & A Center will use a mix of qualitative and quantitative data to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of the SOSI program. Pre- and post-questionnaires on content knowledge, attitude surveys, and workshop effectiveness will be conducted. Comparable or matched samples will also be used to examine the impact on the participating teachers to investigate patterns in student achievement.

This project is currently being evaluated and results are inconclusive.

This project demonstrates the E & A Center's capacity to use mixed-methods evaluations long distances. Also demonstrated in this evaluation is the E & A Center's ability to analyze K-12/IEH science teacher professional development partnerships using sophisticated quantitative and qualitative techniques.