SW PA MSP is a comprehensive, K-12 math and science MSP funded in 2003. It involves urban, suburban and rural settings across the 11 counties surrounding the city of Pittsburgh. IHE partners have been 4 smaller private colleges and universities more heavily focused on teaching than research. K-12 partners include 45 local control K-12 school districts ranging in size from 1,000 to 7,000 students. The lead agency is the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, a publicly funded regional service agency, which also works with three other Intermediate Units as partners. The Partnership is governed by a Cabinet comprised of representatives of the core partners, as well as the leader of the Evaluation Team and the financial manager, who convene monthly to plan and monitor progress.

**K-12**

**Challenge:** K-12 teachers worked in isolation without means for connecting with colleagues.  
**Success:** Teachers appreciate and value Professional Learning Communities as places to share and critique practice.*

**Challenge:** K-12 administrative turnover has been 75%+ at the district and building levels.  
**Success:** Administrator involvement and awareness changes administrator attitudes and behaviors in supervision.*

**Challenge:** A major activity for successful implementation of professional learning communities is negotiating with competing reform agendas.  
**Success:** The SWPA MSP had actively engaged with the state on policy making e.g. State Standards Aligned System, state standards revision, state assessment development.

**Challenge:** Even the most engaged and well practiced Teacher Leaders struggle to make the cultural shift to a focus on student learning. (rather than teacher behavior).  
**Success:** Teachers Leaders embrace the importance of a focus on the “big ideas” of math and science to guide instruction. *

**IHE**

**Challenge:** Pennsylvania mandated that teacher preparation programs certify competency to teach the content specified in the K12 standards for pre-service teachers.**  
**Success:** IHEs increased credit hours for math and science pre-service teachers --and revised 70 % of all math and science courses with the assistance of 39 MSP K-12 Teacher Fellows.

**Challenge:** IHE faculty had limited exposure to varying approaches to instruction.  
**Success:** The majority of the faculty reported changes in instructional practices -- focused on student centered learning and pedagogical awareness.

**Challenge:** Many of the variables that influence student teacher placement are outside of the control of the IHEs.**  
**Success:** There are now explicit, intentional IHE efforts to place student teachers with MSP cooperating teachers. As of Year 5, 71% have been placed with MSP participating teachers

**K-12 Publications**


**IHE Publications**