



# Heartland AEA: Improving Services

## Mathematics Goal

Volume II Issue 5

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information about the current improvement efforts at Heartland AEA 11. For more information, please contact Steve Jones, Communication Specialist, at 515-270-9030 or 800-255-0405.

This issue of Heartland AEA: Improving Services addresses mathematics. Math is the focus of one of Heartland's five agency-wide goals:

- All children and youth will become proficient readers.
- All children and youth will develop social emotional skills.
- All accredited public and non-public schools will demonstrate improvement in student achievement.
- **All children and youth will become proficient in mathematics.**
- All children and youth will become proficient in science.

### Why does Heartland AEA have an agency-wide mathematics goal?

Heartland AEA added a math goal in the fall of 2003 in response to data indicating a need to support schools in mathematics. As the requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) have been defined, the need for schools to improve mathematics instruction and performance has increased.

### What are the specific outcomes in Heartland's mathematics goal and how will they be measured?

Heartland's goal includes three specific targets:

- 100% of 4th graders will be proficient on Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) by 2014.
- 100% of 8th graders will be proficient on ITBS by 2014.
- 100% of 11th graders will be proficient on Iowa Tests of Educational Development (ITED) by 2014.

These targets are aligned with the requirements for student performance that schools must meet under NCLB. The trajectory reflecting the expected rate of gain in student performance is the same as the state trajectory for annual yearly progress.

### Who will oversee the progress on this goal?

The Math Goal Group at Heartland consists of staff with expertise and or interest in math. They have developed an action plan and will study the student data and

analyze local district needs to determine future actions. Math curriculum consultants, Heartland managers and individuals from special education and instructional media work together to oversee this goal.

### What is Heartland AEA doing to increase math achievement?

Two examples of current Heartland services are E2T2 (Enhancing Education Through Technology) and the Elementary Math Leadership Academy.

E2T2 supports standards-based mathematics instruction in grades 6-8. E2T2 uses effective instructional strategies, administrative support, best practices in technology and extensive professional development opportunities to increase student achievement. Teachers learn new instructional routines and effective practices and receive support from Heartland E2T2 facilitators. Twenty-four districts and 102 teachers participated in year one of E2T2, 13 districts and 69 teachers will participate next year (year two) and 15 districts and 101 teachers plan to participate in year three.

The Elementary Math Leadership Academy has been meeting to build teacher-leaders who will initiate change in mathematics practice within their classrooms and schools. Teachers learn research-based effective practices for teaching mathematics for understanding.

### Are there plans for future capacity building?

Yes. Districts were recently notified about Content Area Capacity Building for Math. This professional development opportunity is being provided in the 2004-2005 school year for Heartland AEA districts. NCLB and AYP requirements are guiding the delivery of this proposed professional development program. A commitment of one full day per month will provide district learning teams with the opportunity to learn theory, coach and collaborate with colleagues, and practice content-based strategies. Contact a Heartland math curriculum consultant for more information.