

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The professional development program for teachers will focus on deeper understandings of place-based education, strategies for strengthening school-community partnerships, expanding instructional strategies to include problem-based learning, and developing a personal pd plan. Field experiences will be incorporated to help teachers expand their knowledge of local water resources and watershed issues. The program has four main professional development components: Summer Institute, Dinner & Dialog Sessions, Project Planning Sessions and Special Topic Workshops.

Summer Institute

Teachers will attend a 5-day summer institute at the MAISD Regional Math/Science Center and at a variety of local field locations. Teachers will be joined by key community partners and content experts from a variety of natural resource organizations.

The Institute will meet Monday, July 30 through Friday, August 3, 2012 from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm at various locations in Muskegon and Newaygo counties.

Dinner & Dialog Sessions

Three Dinner & Dialog sessions during the school year provide on-going support for participants of the Institute and their community partners. Teacher teams convene to learn new content, discuss progress, and refine their project design. They also provide a more public forum for listening to and learning from teachers and community partners about education, natural resources and stewardship.

Project Planning Sessions

Planning time will be set aside and scheduled with individual teams 2-4 times during the school year. This time will allow teachers, select students, administrators, WMGLSI staff, and community members an opportunity to discuss project ideas, needs, and overall development. Substitute teacher costs will be paid by the Initiative, if needed.

Special Topic Professional Development

A minimum of two workshops will be scheduled throughout the duration of the Initiative for participants with special interests. Attendance at special topic workshops is not required. They allow interested participants to choose a professional development path for extending their learning beyond the scope of the Summer Institute and school year follow-up sessions.