

Creating Opportunities for Special Education Teachers to Become Highly Qualified in Content Areas

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Session Objectives

- Participants will learn about
 - Content-focused options to help teachers meet NCLB requirements through HOUSSE
 - Effective collaborative planning and implementation with general education colleagues
 - The nuts and bolts of planning & implementing content institutes
- . . . and will have the opportunity to think about and discuss implementation possibilities in their own districts

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High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE)

One way teachers can meet HOUSSE requirements is by completing a "content institute"

- Content institutes must follow the guidelines established for *high quality staff development**; they must
 - Improve teachers' knowledge of academic content
 - Be sustained, intensive, and classroom-focused
 - Be delivered by individual with qualifications and credentials in the focus area
 - Support the success of all learners
 - Provide training in the use of technology
 - Promote the use of data and assessments to improve instruction

*See
<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/suptsmemos/2004/inf082.html>

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Content Area Institutes for Middle School

- *Intensive content-area Institutes, which meet high-quality professional development criteria, are designed to support teachers who need to become highly qualified.*
- **Participants must:**
 - Attend **all** content area sessions, including three follow-up days during the 2005-2006 school year.
 - **Successfully complete** all course related assignments.



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Overview of Institutes

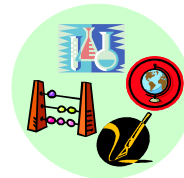


- Minimum **30 hours** for each Institute
- **Collaboration** between Instructional Services and Office of Special Education
- Teachers paid **hourly stipend** (\$15/hr) for summer hours – **3 to 5 hours a day for 4 to 5 days**
- Teachers receive **recertification points**
- **3 follow-up days** during the 2005-2006 school year (subs funds to be provided)

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Content Area Institutes for Middle School

- Offering;
 - Language Arts for teachers of grades 7 & 8
 - Mathematics for teachers of grades 7 & 8
 - Science for teachers of grades 7 & 8
 - Social Studies for teachers of US History Grade 7



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Content Area Institutes for Middle School – Language Arts

- **Institute Content will focus on:**
 - In-depth analysis of SOLs and Blueprints
 - Implementation of research-based strategies
 - Before, During and After Reading Strategies
 - Vocabulary
 - Formal & Informal assessment
 - 6-Traits of Writing
 - Selecting engaging, age appropriate materials
 - Effective use of technology



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Content Area Institutes for Middle School – Language Arts

- **Resources**
 - *Creating Writers Through 6-Trait Writing Assessment & Instruction* by Vicki Spandell
 - *Do I Really Have to Teach Reading* by Cris Tovani
 - *Tools for Teaching Content Literacy* by Janet Allen
 - *When Kids Can't Read* by Kyrene Beers
 - Select young adult literature



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Content Area Institutes for Middle School- **Mathematics**

- **Content Emphasis**
 - Technology
 - Number sense & computation
 - Patterns, functions & algebra
 - 2 and 3-dimensional geometry
 - Statistics and probability



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Content Area Institutes for Middle School- **Mathematics**

- **Pedagogy Emphasis**
 - Hands-on use of manipulatives
 - Explicit instruction in problem-solving strategies
 - Active learning techniques
 - Cooperative learning groups
 - Creative use of media (overhead tiles)
- **Resources**
 - *Math on Call*
 - *Algebra to Go*
 - TI-83 calculators



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Content Area Institutes for Middle School - **Science**

- **Instructional Strategies**
 - Structured inquiry
 - Classwide peer tutoring & precision teaching
 - Mnemonics
 - Study guides
 - Use of models
 - Graphic organizers (Think Sheets)
 - Best practices for lab work



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Content Area Institutes for Middle School - **Science**

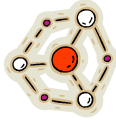
- **Key Skills for Students**
 - Using the scientific method
 - Drawing conclusions from data analysis
 - Lab skills
- **And Teachers . . .**
 - Best practices for lab management



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Content Area Institutes for Middle School - Science

- **Critical Concepts in 7th Grade**
 - Photosynthesis & Respiration
 - Cellular Organization
 - Heredity
 - Food Webs & Energy Pyramids
- **And 8th . . .**
 - Conservation of Matter & Energy and Balanced Equations
 - Properties, Mixtures & Changes
 - Speed, Velocity & Acceleration
 - Energy Transformations



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Content Area Institutes for Middle School – Social Studies

- **Instructional Strategies**
 - Big ideas*
 - Problem-Solution-Effect
 - Four Factors of Group Success
 - Democratic Process
 - Seven Factors of Economy
 - Four Stages of Cooperation
 - Interactive student notebook

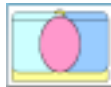
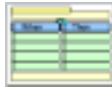


From *Understanding U.S. History*
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Content Area Institutes for Middle School – Social Studies

- **Instructional Strategies**
 - Classwide peer tutoring & precision teaching
 - Mnemonics
 - Study guides
 - Graphic organizers (Think Sheets)



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Content Area Institutes for Middle School – Social Studies

- **Content (1 day each)**
 - Westward Expansion
 - Industry and Big Business
 - Immigration, Urbanization, Progressives
 - U.S. as a World Power & World War I
 - The Twenties
 - The Depression & World War II
 - Cold War & Contemporary Issues



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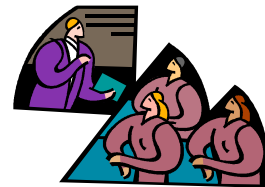
Content Area Institutes for Middle School – Social Studies

- **Materials**
 - Picture books for enhancing instruction



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Other Options



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Online Courses for HS Teachers

- Offering:
 - Biology
 - Algebra I
- Courses based on **content of student online courses**
- Teacher will meet **face-to-face** with instructor **4-5 times**
 - Opportunity for labs, assessment, and instruction on strategies
- Teachers will earn FCPS Academy credit (counts toward salary) and recertification points



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Content Area College Courses

- Collaborative effort with George Mason University
- Offering courses in
 - English 7-12
 - Mathematics (pre-Algebra through Geometry)



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Content Area College Courses

- GMU provides instructors, who may be FCPS staff
- Classes meet all day, every day for 1 week
- Prerequisite – at least a basic level of content knowledge
- Teachers receive academy credit (counts towards salary) and recertification points



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Continuing Challenges

- Social Studies Content
- Choosing participants for limited slots
- Content vs. strategies
- General educators' question:
 - **How highly qualified is "highly qualified"?**
- How do we keep options open as demand slacks off over time?



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And even tougher . . .

- Interpretation of HOUSSE memo
 - **Do previous Institutes count?**
 - **How far back do we look?**
 - **Is it an Institute (30 hours required) or just recertification points (180 hours required)?**



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Your turn . . .

- Discuss with a partner
 - What are you already doing in your district to help teachers meet HOUSSE requirements?
 - What options might you explore as a result of today's session?
 - What questions do you still have?



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