

SmartGraphs Study Opportunity

Grant Overview: The National Science Foundation has funded a project called SmartGraphs. SmartGraphs is a web-based software program designed to provide lessons to scaffold and deepen student learning about graphs and the concepts represented in them.

The National Science Foundation project is looking for Pennsylvania teachers of 8th or 9th grade physical science to participate in a voluntary two-year study of the effectiveness of the SmartGraphs software. All teachers in the study will participate in 1.5 days of professional development in August 2011, and again in August 2012. The sessions take place in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. In the fall of 2011, teachers will teach motion and force in their classrooms, using their regular textbooks. Half of the teachers will be assigned to the experimental group, which will use the SmartGraphs software, while the others will be in the control group and will continue with their usual teaching methods.

During the fall of 2012, all teachers will use the SmartGraphs software to teach motion and force to their students. Each year, teachers will be expected to administer online pre- and post-tests to their students, complete surveys about their experiences, and provide additional information. For working on the project, each teacher will receive \$1,500 per school year.

Travel expenses incurred in attending the professional development will be covered by the project. There should be no substitute costs, as professional development occurs in August.

Amount of Award: \$1,500 per teacher selected to participate in the study.

Due Date/Notification of Award: not known at this time.

Alternatives if not Awarded: this is a voluntary study. Activities will not occur if a teacher is not participating.

WCSD Resources Required: None.

Administrative Recommendation: That the Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to identify teachers interested in participating in the SmartGraphs study and assist them with submitting an application for consideration in the project.