

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

• How do I apply?

- Visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/math/math_initiative.htm to find a list of scheduled classes and applications. Spring applications will be available Nov. 1, 2009.

• Who can take the MTI course?

- Certified, public education teachers that are currently teaching math and administrators. Please see the following link for details on certification requirements. http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/math/math_initiative.htm

• I'm a 7th grade teacher. Should I take the 4-8 or 6-12 course?

- The choice is yours but the 6-12 course is geared more toward algebraic thinking and the 4-8 course focuses on rational number.

• I don't recertify until 2012. When do I need to take the course if it's for recertification by 2014?

- Anytime before 2014, not necessarily by 2012.

• My small district can't put together a team to apply this year. Can I apply individually?

- Individuals can apply, but we give preference to district teams. If you are from a small district and you are the only teacher that can take the course at this time, please note that on your application.

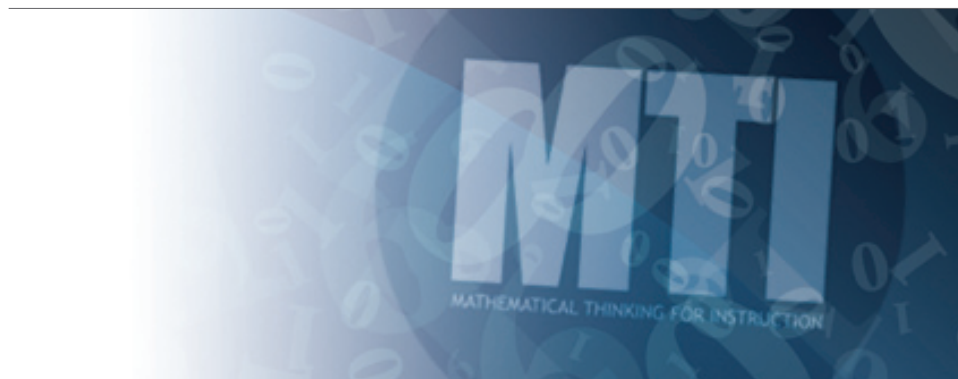
• Is there a way to opt out of the course?

- No, the Idaho Math Initiative task force believes it is critical for every elementary and math teacher to receive this training.

• Will the MTI course be available online?

- The SDE is working on developing virtual options; however, there is not an online MTI course at this time.

MATHEMATICAL THINKING FOR INSTRUCTION



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Mathematical Thinking for Instruction Course

The Idaho Math Initiative recognizes that the most important factor in a student's academic success is the quality of the teacher in the classroom. Therefore, the Math Initiative largely focuses on offering professional development to give Idaho teachers the tools they need to improve math education for all students.

WHAT IS THE MTI COURSE?

With the help of Idaho teachers and math education experts, the State Department of Education created the Mathematical Thinking for Instruction (MTI) course, a three-credit course that gives Idaho teachers and administrators the best practices and teaching strategies they need to help all students succeed in math. Pending final approval from the Idaho State Board of Education, the MTI course will be required for certification in 2014.

The MTI course was developed by a committee of educators under the direction of the State Department of Education and Dr. Jonathan Brendefur, who manages the Developing Mathematical Thinking Institute (DMT) at Boise State University. Based on feedback from this committee, the MTI was split into three different sections based on grade level – grades K-3 focusing on number sense, grades 4-8 focusing on rational number, and grades 6-12 focusing on algebraic thinking. Teachers will be required to take only one of these courses by 2014 for re-certification. Teachers and administrators have a choice of which class they take, but they are strongly encouraged to take the course that most closely matches their teaching assignment.

WHEN IS THE MTI COURSE OFFERED?

MTI classes are offered in the fall, spring, and summer of each year. There are 17 or more classes held in the fall and spring and 40 or more classes held during the summer months. Each class will hold between 25-30 participants. Our goal is 2,000 educators each year between the years 2009-2014.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Three university credits for each participant successfully completing the course are paid for through the math initiative funding. The funding also covers materials for the course. The Department does not pay for travel to and from the class.

EDUCATORS LOVE THE MTI COURSE!

"Even though I majored in math in college, I never really understood the why or how it worked. I've been stuck in the box all this time and I didn't know it! As an elementary principal, thanks for helping our teachers get out of the box too. I can't wait to see what they incorporate into their

teaching this next year! Thanks for helping us learn and grow as educators!" Summer 2009.

"Wow! Thank you for an amazing week! I thought I understood math. I really was good at memorizing rules. This will really change how I teach. Not a moment wasted this week!" Summer 2009.

"... I'd like to thank you again for a wonderful week of math. I'm sitting here with my math book and solving problems using various methods. My husband told me I have all summer and I need to give it a break (but that's not my style). I'm already excited about next school year." Summer 2009

WHO TEACHES THE MTI COURSE?

Currently, the state has 15 MTI instructors. Those instructors include staff from the DMT, regional specialists, and various Idaho educators.

Are you interested in becoming an instructor? Here are the steps to becoming an MTI Instructor:

1. Participate in the planning and facilitation of, at least, one of the MTI Class (K-3, 4-8, 6-12)
2. Demonstrate evidence of ability to teach a standards-based lesson
3. Demonstrate knowledge of how students' learn mathematics (e.g., learning progressions)
4. Provide evidence of an ability or candor to work with teachers in professional development
5. Participate in a three day MTI Instructor workshop
6. Co-teach the MTI course with an IDMT staff member

7. Be selected as an MTI Instructor

Please note that the Idaho State Department in consultation with IDMT staff will determine whether instructors have the qualifications to teach the course.

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT MTI?

The Department is hiring regional specialists in each region of the state to provide support to districts in implementing the MTI practices. These specialists will be coordinating with the MTI director and associate director to schedule the MTI classes in your region. Please contact them if you have questions regarding the MTI classes.

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