CENTER ON INSTRUCTION

CAPACITY BUILDING INDICATORS & DISSEMINATION STRATEGIES

Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM): Catalyzing Change Amid the Confusion

Description: This document offers an overview of the role of STEM in current educational improvement efforts. It offers a brief history of STEM initiatives and publications and attempts to capture important trends and dispel confusion over the goals and approaches of STEM initiatives. Several important considerations are also presented for state and district educators who are developing STEM programs to compare and contrast the available STEM approaches.

Information Level: novice

Intended Audience for Internal Knowledge Development:

State: grants, professional development, education departments, county offices of education
District: policy planning, professional development
School: planning, professional development
Community: business community, philanthropic organizations, not-for-profit organizations

To expand RCC's capacity, this activity or resource:	
Raises awareness of new developments in fields important to states' work.	It provides an overview of the role of STEM in current educational improvement efforts.
Helps the RCC help states accomplish a goal or solve a problem.	It identifies trends in goals and approaches of STEM initiatives.
Helps the RCC help states improve or support an ongoing state program, policy, or practice.	If a state is already in the process of implementing a STEM initiative, it presents considerations for refining one's approach.
Helps the RCC help states plan or initiate a new state program, policy, or practice.	It presents considerations for states and districts who are developing STEM programs to compare and contrast available approaches.
Helps RCC improve states' ability to work with districts.	It is a resource that is easily disseminated to staff at SEAs and LEAs.
Helps the RCC help states complete NCLB-related applications, plans, and reports.	It offers accurate and accessible information on STEM initiatives.

Suggested Dissemination Strategies:

- Email link to the resource (http://centeroninstruction.org/science-technology-engineering-mathematics-stem-catalyzing-change-amid-the-confusion) or email pdf of the document (http://centeroninstruction.org/files/STEM%20-%20Catalyzing%20Change%20Amid%20the%20Confusion.pdf) to SEA staff
- The document will also be linked from the Lawrence Hall of Science website.
- Webinar: Sept 10, 2012