



M.A. Henry Consulting, LLC and its team of evaluators and researchers have worked to support and improve educational programming for more than a quarter century. Our clients include research universities, teacher prep and certification programs, school districts, informal education organizations, community-based organizations, professional development programs and large-scale partnerships. **We have worked with many math and science partnerships across various subject areas and grade levels.**

M.A. Henry Consulting, LLC assists educators and program teams to meet their need for evidence-based decision-making. Experienced in the most current methods, grounded in human subjects and ethical requirements, and committed to serving the vision of an informed, well-educated community, the professionals at M.A. Henry Consulting, LLC welcome your call for assistance.



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Evaluation for Mathematics and Science Partnerships



**Secure Funding
Refine Activities
Ensure Results**

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What can evaluation do for your plans for a mathematics and science partnership?

As the economic downturn cuts into revenue available to support education, educators are looking for additional sources of funding for schools and school districts. Grant funding, in which “soft” money is awarded for specific programs to be implemented for a set period of time, is an option school administrators are increasingly turning to in order to develop innovative projects, enhance teaching and learning, and augment educational activities.

One such grant opportunity is the U.S. Department of Education’s **Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP)** program. The ED MSP is intended to increase the academic achievement of students in mathematics and science by enhancing the content knowledge and teaching skills of classroom teachers. Partnerships between high-need school districts and the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) faculty in institutions of higher education are the core of these projects. Other partners may include state education agencies, public charter schools or other public schools, businesses, and non-profit or for-profit organizations.

The Math and Science Partnerships program is a formula grant program to all states, with the size of individual state awards based on student population and poverty rates. With these funds, each state administers a competitive grant competition, in which grants are made to partnerships to improve teacher knowledge in mathematics and science.

Secure Funding

Each state education agency sets the process for distributing its MSP funds, under requirements set by the Department of Education. In addition to preparing its teacher professional development plan, each proposed project is required to develop an evaluation and accountability plan for its activities. Rigorous objectives that measure the impact of these activities are required. Evaluation must include measures on growth in teachers’ content knowledge, and on improved student achievement.

Inclusion of professional evaluators early in the planning process helps ensure that requirements are met and that an integrated, competitive proposal is prepared for these multi-year projects.

Refine Activities

MSP funding supports:

- Summer institutes with follow-up during the school year.
- Improve subject matter knowledge.
- Promote strong teaching skills.
- Recruit STEM majors into teaching.
- Develop rigorous curricula aligned with state standards.



- Prepare teacher leaders.
- Place teachers in scientific settings.
- Identify exemplary STEM teachers.
- Prepare under-represented individuals for STEM fields.

With qualified evaluators in place, aligning activities with efficient and timely data collection enables the MSP to address challenges, target areas of special need, and prepare for reporting requirements in an ongoing way.

Evaluation assists in keeping the big picture in view during the implementation of these complex projects.

Ensure Results

Has an MSP met its goals and objectives? What works and what can be improved? Did enhanced teaching skills among teachers lead to enhanced learning in math and science among students? How can the effort be sustained? Evaluation helps provide the evidence-based answers to these crucial questions.

Evaluation is a necessary part of educational programming in today’s competitive and complex environment. A close partnership with professional evaluators can make a real difference in improving education, including the outcomes of MSPs.