

TWO DAY MINI-COURSE FOR IN-SERVICE TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The two day mini-course is similar to the one day mini-course, but allows participants to spend more time on the activities. The sessions in this mini-course build on the eight preparation and development activities from the Laptop Learning Challenge Web site and CD-ROM, and use the exemplary lessons as models. Use the ideas and activities as appropriate, and adapt this schedule to fit your course and time frame. You might assign some activities for participants to carry out independently.

Use one laptop and one set of interfaced instruments per group of two to four participants. Install software programs on the laptops prior to the course.

Day One

Activity 1: Comparing Laptops to Desktop Computers

Activity 2: Accessing Resources

Activity 3: Gathering, Organizing, and Interpreting Information

Activity 4: Inquiry in Interactive Environments

Day Two

Activity 5: Student Communication and Productivity

Activity 6: Assessment Opportunities

Activity 7: Management Strategies

Activity 8: Teacher Productivity and Reflective Practice

ASSIGNMENT

Each participant proposes an individual plan for integrating the use of laptops into a science activity. Several teachers may collaborate within or between schools on data gathering and analysis. If possible, address an authentic concern and carry out inquiry over an extended period of time.

Follow-up

After two months, participants can share by email the results of carrying out individual plans with their own students.