

PROJECT CAMS (Curriculum Analysis Monitoring System) SUMMARY

The CAMS program was newly developed and instituted in the fall of 1984. The program was written by the project directors, Michael D. King, Principal, and Dick Idleman. The intent of the program is to account for use of the teachers' time in order to increase the effective instructional time and thereby increase student learning. The program is designed to provide a system for teachers to examine and compare their use of time in the classroom in order to more effectively use their time. The Curriculum Analysis Monitoring System (CAMS) is an organized recording method which requires teachers to record their daily time spent in designated categories.

The program has been in process and is in need of an evaluation to substantiate growth in student learning and in effectiveness of the use of teacher instructional time. The purpose of the evaluation is to apply for approval of the program for dissemination funds by the National Joint Dissemination Review Panel (JDRP) as a model program. The stated primary objective of the CAMS program is to map instructional delivery time of mathematics instruction in relation to specified objectives. The primary purpose of the evaluation as stated by the client is to assess differences in achievement in mathematics in students who were taught teachers who used CAMS compared to students whose teachers were not using the system.

The CAMS program is an ongoing system to account for that portion of a teacher's time which is actively engaged in teaching. Through CAMS teacher awareness of time engaged in teaching specified content objectives is expected to be increased as a function of monitoring the time. The amount of engaged time in relation to total time allocated for the lessons is expected to increase thereby increasing student learning.

Project CAMS provides an organizational system for teachers to and assess their time in the classroom. The 8 second grade and 8 third grade classroom teachers have been using CAMS to monitor time in math classes since September, 1984. Teachers were given an initial in-service to review principles of effective teaching and introduced the teachers to the components and methods of using CAMS. They were given course descriptions and math content outcome objectives, a model for mapping time, recording time, and explanations of instructional factors designed maximize student and teacher performance. Grade level meetings were held to discuss progress charts curricular issues throughout the school year.

CAMS is a program which provides a system to continuously monitor curriculum progression throughout a given school year. The purpose of the program, as stated by the project directors (King & Idleman, 1984), is to create a consistency in the academic content that is taught. The project description cited research by Schwille (N.D.) indicating that the major decision regarding what content would be taught lies with each individual teacher rather than with the directors of curriculum. Evidence by Cooley and Leinhart (1980) indicates that the most potent variable for student achievement is the individual teacher's decision pertaining to what content would be taught.

The project directors consider CAMS to provide a process to enable teachers to be held accountable for the prescribed content areas of the curriculum. The teachers will be responsible for recording the amount of time in which they are actively instructing the children for the various specified basic performance skills objectives). The project directors consider accountability for the curriculum to be aided by the system of recording the active teaching time as specified by CAMS. It is implied that the goal of consistency of instruction will be aided by utilization of the system.

The teachers record that portion of their daily math time which is defined as "teacher engaged time." The time that a teacher allocates to each day's math lessons may be considered to consist of three instructional processes. These are organizational time: classroom management time consists of activities such as passing out papers or waiting for students to sharpen pencils, and independent student activity time when the teacher is not actively interacting with any of the students.

Teacher engaged time is that portion of the planned lesson time in which the teacher is actively teaching a planned basic performance skill. It consists of the teacher instructional processes of introducing the material, interacting with or monitoring students on content of the current curriculum objective or basic performance skill (BPS). Post-instructional factors of reviewing BPSs taught in a prior year or of reassessing, i.e. reintroducing current BPSs or of testing are not considered to be engaged time. Engaged time, then, is the only time that is recorded for each BPS, and is that time during the teacher's planned, or allocated time, in which the teacher is introducing the current lesson or interacting with and/or actively monitoring the students on that skill.

If the skill is reintroduced at a later time it is then considered to be counted as reassessment time. Reassessment time and testing time are counted in those specific categories rather than recorded as time counted as engaged in teaching those BPSs. The BPS objectives, therefore, are to be recorded as having been reassessed or tested while the time is counted under the reassessment or competency (testing) category of the recording chart.

Time spent in review of BPSs taught in the previous year's curriculum objectives is recorded only under the category of review time. The categories then, which appear on the statistical summary charts are: daily allotted time, days taught each month, monthly allotted time, teacher instructional time, review time (re-teaching of BPSs introduced in a prior year's curriculum), reassessment time (re-teaching of material introduced earlier in the present year's curriculum), total engaged time, testing time, teacher organizational time/independent student activity time, and average daily engaged time.

Timed Stamped Historical Documents