The Impact of Project 2061 on Science Education in Northeastern Louisiana Classrooms.

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ABSTRACT Project 2061, a broad-based science reform movement, was launched by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to define the fundamental science and mathematics American students should know. A second phase of Project 2061 translated the defined learning goals to curricula for grades 2, 5, 8, and 12, and a third phase is the current collaboration of scientific organizations and others to turn the curriculum blueprints into lasting educational practice. This study examined the impact of Project 2061 on science education in northeastern Louisiana schools.

Ninety-seven teachers of science from 10 schools completed a survey. Only 3% had a background in pure and applied science, but 88% had an education degree. Forty-four percent of these teachers taught in grades K though 3, and 35% taught grades 4 through 6. Twenty-nine percent taught at the middle school or high school levels. The following conclusions were made: a majority of these teachers recognized the importance of science education; all of the pedagogies suggested by Project 2061 had been used to varying degrees in these schools; the teachers were fairly knowledgeable about the Louisiana program that launched Project 2061 in the state. However, money for science equipment and supplies was inadequate. Recommendations to implement Project 2061 to a greater degree, and to improve science education in Louisiana are presented. (Contains 7 tables and 30 references.) (SLD)
THE IMPACT OF PROJECT 2061 ON SCIENCE EDUCATION IN NORTHEASTERN LOUISIANA CLASSROOMS

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Rationale:

Eleven years ago Project 2061, a broad based science reform movement, was launched by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Project 2061's all encompassing aim was to form a consensus regarding the fundamental scientific concepts all United States school children should know. This movement stressed scientific literacy of a common core of learning, integrated science, mathematics, and technology, and concentrated on innovative teaching for grades K-12. Initially introduced in 1985, the year Halley's Comet orbited close to our sun, Project 2061 was named for the year that Halley's Comet will next appear. The year 2061 was also the date chosen as the culmination point of this current round of reform (U.S. Department of Education, 1994).

Steady advances have been made toward achieving the goals of Project 2061. The work of this reform program has consisted of three phases. Phase I defined the fundamental science, mathematics, technological skills, knowledge, and understanding all American students should achieve by grade 12. This baseline of knowledge was presented in the 1989 publication of Science for All Americans.

In Phase II, recommendations from Science for All Americans were translated to specific learning goals for
grades 2, 5, 8, and 12. These curriculum development tools were contained in *Benchmarks for Science Literacy*, which was published in 1993.

Project 2061, now in Phase III, is collaborating with scientific societies, professional organizations, and other groups to turn curriculum blueprints and suggestions into lasting educational practice (American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1995).

An analysis of statistics relating to academic performance by Louisiana school children indicated both the importance of and the necessity for educational reform (LaSIP, 1996). Louisiana's poor rankings nationally in the illiteracy rate among adults and the number of teenage pregnancies, while worrisome prior to the 1980s, did not appear to be leading to cataclysmic results. Since the 1940s, sufficient well-paying jobs in the oil and petrochemical industries had been available for those Louisiana citizens who did not possess a high level of education. In the 1980s, however, declining oil prices and the increased usage of labor saving technology in the petrochemical field resulted in a sharp decrease in these job opportunities.

The very low performance rankings on the American College Testing (ACT) assessment by Louisiana high school students served notice on the state's education program (LaSIP, 1995). An important prerequisite for attracting and
keeping new industries in Louisiana would be the availability of a properly educated labor force.

The educational reform movement in Louisiana gained impetus in 1986 when the state legislature passed a constitutional amendment creating the Louisiana Education Quality Support Fund. These funds, dedicated solely to education, were derived from the settlement of a substantial oil related lawsuit between Louisiana and the federal government (LaSIP, 1995).

The Louisiana Systemic Initiatives Program (LaSIP), introduced in the 1992-93 academic year, was a five-year statewide effort to restructure mathematics and science education. Modeling the broad interrelated initiatives of Project 2061, LaSIP was in the vanguard of the educational reform movement in Louisiana. The main goal of the LaSIP reform was that students utilize critical thinking and problem solving skills while participating in hands on learning (LaSIP, 1995).

From inception in 1992 through March 1996, a total of 102 mathematics and science projects involving over 3,300 teachers had been conducted throughout the state. Almost 200,000 Louisiana students had been taught mathematics or science by a LaSIP trained teacher. Although not yet definitive, statewide math test results indicated that the 17% of students who had received instruction by LaSIP
trained teachers averaged two to three items higher than the total population (LaSIP, 1995).

This study sought to determine the impact of Project 2061 on science education in the elementary and middle-senior high schools in the northeastern region of Louisiana.

Statement of the Problem

Project 2061 had, as its main objective, the complete reform of the manner in which science education was carried out. This study determined what impact, if any, Project 2061 has had on northeastern Louisiana elementary teachers of science.

Research Questions

The research questions examined in this study were:

1. How important is science education for the 21st century as perceived by current science teachers?

2. Did teachers use pedagogical methods suggested by Project 2061?

3. How familiar with LaSIP were teacher participants in this study?

4. What money for supplies and materials was available for implementation of Project 2061 to northeastern Louisiana teacher participants?

Definition of Terms

For the purpose of this study the following definitions were utilized.
Louisiana Systemic Initiatives Program (LaSIP)--"The five-year statewide effort to reform mathematics and science learning consistent with the rapidly changing needs of the age of technology" (Louisiana Systematic Initiatives Program, 1995, p. 3).

Project 2061--"A broad, long range movement to improve math, science and technology education for American students" (American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1995, Fall).

Scientifically literate--"One who is aware that science, mathematics, and technology are interdependent human enterprises with strengths and limitations; understands key concepts and principles of science; is familiar with the natural world and recognizes both its diversity and unity; and uses scientific knowledge and scientific ways of thinking for individuals and social purposes" (Kelter, Hughes, & Murphy, 1992, p. 365).

Utilization of lists of science teachers across the state of Louisiana provided a contact person within a public school in each of the 17 towns. One private parochial school was also randomly selected for inclusion in the survey.

Of the 18 schools chosen according to their geographical location for this study, 10 expressed a willingness to take part. The research survey, which was sent to 219 teachers, was completed by 97 teachers of
science at the K-3 grade elementary level, the 4-6 grade upper elementary level, and the 7-12 middle school and high school levels of instruction.

Nineteen percent of the teachers who responded were between 20-29 years of age. Twenty-seven percent were in the 30-39 age range. Forty percent were in the 40-49 age range. Thirteen percent of the teachers were between 50-59 years of age, and 1% did not reveal their age.

Thirty-eight percent of the respondents were of the Caucasian racial group. Fifty-five percent stated they were of African American heritage. One percent indicated they were of Native American roots and 6% of the classroom teachers stated that they were of a mixed racial background. Of the 97 teachers answering the survey, 92% were female and 8% were male.

When surveyed concerning the field of study for their bachelors degree, 3% of the teachers had received a business administration degree. Eighty-eight percent had received an education degree. Five percent of the teachers had bachelor degrees in liberal arts, and 3% had a pure and applied science background.

Of the surveyed teachers who had received masters degrees, 94% had received the degree in the field of education. Two percent of the remaining teachers had earned master degrees in business, 2% in music and 2% in music
education. Only 1% of the respondents had received an education specialist degree.

Classroom assignments were a part of the demographic information provided. Forty-four percent of the teachers taught at the K-3 grade level. Thirty-five percent taught grades 4-6. Twenty-one percent taught at the middle high or high school levels.

When surveyed concerning the total number of years having taught, 22% of the teachers had taught 0-4 years. Twenty-six percent had 5-9 years, 16% had 10-14 years, 18% had 15-19 years, 13% had 20-24 years, 5% had 25-29 years, and 1% had over 30 years of experience.

Additional school demographic information was provided by respondents. Ascertained were the number of students enrolled in the various schools included in the survey. Schools with a student population of less than 250 students made up 1% of the schools in this survey. Fifteen percent of the schools enrolled 250-399 students, 39% of the schools enrolled 400-550 students and 45% of the schools enrolled more than 550 students.

The location of each school included in the survey was also provided. Twenty-one percent of the schools were targeted as inner city, 48% of the schools were rural, 19% were suburban, and 12% were urban.

For this study, socioeconomic backgrounds were defined by the following annual incomes: upper socioeconomic-
greater than $70,000.00, upper middle socioeconomic-between $69,000.00 and $30,000.00, lower middle socioeconomic-between $29,000.00 and $18,000.00, and lower socioeconomic-less than $15,000.00. One percent of the schools had a student population composed of children from an upper socioeconomic background. Twenty percent of the schools worked with children from an upper middle level, and 35% of this study's schools were from a lower middle level. Thirty eight percent of the schools provided instruction to students from a lower socioeconomic level. Lastly, 5% of the schools reported an equal representation of children from all socioeconomic levels.

Forty-four percent of the teachers who responded taught at the K-3 lower elementary grade level, 79% taught at the 4-6 upper elementary grade level. Twenty percent of the participants taught at the middle school and high school levels.

Also addressed was the racial population of the schools taking part in this study. Sixty percent of the schools were predominantly African American, 22% were predominantly Caucasian, and 18% contained an equal representation of races.

**Instrumentation**

For this study, the researcher utilized an instrument which consisted of 31 items. The first seven items gathered demographic data from the teachers. This information
included the teachers' age, race, sex and area(s) of earned degree(s). Respondents also indicated grade level teaching assignments, number of years of teaching experience and professional organization affiliations. Items 8 through 13 secured data concerning the teachers' schools. These items related to enrollment, locale, racial population, socioeconomic groups and the availability and monetary value of science equipment at each school. Items 14 through 21 were utilized to collect data concerning the pedagogy utilized by teachers. Frequency and types of science presentations and labs were dealt with in these questions.

Information concerning computer availability and usage was collected from items 19 and 20. Item 21 related to the integration of math into science lessons.

Opportunities provided to teachers for attending instructional science conventions, inservices and workshops were addressed in items 22-24. Items 25-26 gauged how confident teachers were in both their science background and class presentations. The next 3 items asked for teachers' familiarity with Project 2061 and LaSIP and their participation, if any, in a LaSIP project. Item 30 concerned the importance teachers placed in science education as America enters the 21st century, and item 31 regarded grant writing.
**Data Collection**

Seventeen towns in northeast Louisiana had sufficient population to warrant their own telephone exchanges. Utilizing published lists of science teachers within the state of Louisiana, the researcher contacted by letter a teacher within a public school in each of these 17 communities. Nine public schools agreed to participate in this study. One parochial school was also randomly selected for inclusion in the survey. Postal mailing envelopes of surveys, self-addressed stamped envelopes, and cover letters were mailed to the contact teacher in each of six participating schools which were located farther than 25 miles from Monroe. Packets were hand delivered to and picked up from four schools that were within 25 miles of the researcher.

**Data Analysis**

In analyzing data collected from all returned surveys, the researcher utilized descriptive statistics. Percentages were tabulated to obtain information concerning respondents' and schools' demography. Percentages and frequencies also were calculated in determining answers to the research questions formulated in this project.

**Data Presentation**

Demographic Data

Ninety seven educators at 10 schools in northeastern Louisiana took part in this study. Forty-three of the
respondents taught at the K-3 grade level, 34 taught grades 4-6, and 20 taught grades 7-12. The educators in this study taught at inner city, rural, suburban, and urban schools. Twenty one respondents taught at inner city schools, 46 taught at rural schools, 18 taught at suburban schools, and 12 taught at urban schools.

How important is science education for the 21st century as perceived by current science teachers? Northeastern Louisiana teachers were asked to rate the importance of science education as the United States enters the 21st century. As noted in Table 1, the data suggested that the majority of teachers in all locales placed great value on science education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Inner City</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Suburban</th>
<th>Urban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very important</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat important</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Did teachers use pedagogical methods suggested by Project 2061? To determine the relationship of the pedagogy utilized by Northeastern Louisiana teachers with methods suggested by Project 2061, teachers supplied data regarding components of their science lesson presentations. One questionnaire item was utilized to collect data concerning the frequency of science lessons as follows: daily--67%,
three times weekly--18%, and once or twice weekly--15%.
The importance of hands-on investigations in science
lessons was rated by teachers as follows: great importance-
-55%, average importance--28%, minimal importance--10%, and
no importance--7%. As evidenced by Table 2, data collected
from the study concerned the importance of hands-on
investigations by grade levels. Educators rated hands-on
investigations to be of greatest importance in grades 4-6,
and of least importance in grades K-3.

Table 2
The Importance Played by Hands-on Investigations in Science
Lessons by Grade Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Importance</th>
<th>Grades K-3</th>
<th>Grades 4-6</th>
<th>Grades 7-12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Great importance</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average importance</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal importance</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No importance</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Science teachers were asked to rate the importance of
hands-on investigations in science lessons across
northeastern Louisiana. As revealed in Table 3, hands-on
work was valued as having the greatest importance both in
inner city and suburban schools. Hands-on investigation was
valued to be of least importance in rural schools.
Table 3

The Importance of Hands-on Investigations in Science

Lessons by Locale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Importance</th>
<th>Inner City</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Suburban</th>
<th>Urban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Great importance</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average importance</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal importance</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No importance</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teachers reported the frequency of their science laboratory studies as follows: once a week--42%, twice or more a week--18%, and none--39%. Teachers reported methods of science demonstrations, experiments, and investigations in their classrooms as follows: cooperative learning groups were utilized--55%, three or four children conducted a demonstration experiment--12%, the teacher conducted a demonstration experiment--20%, no experiments were conducted--12%, and 1% did not respond.

Activities utilized to provide science instruction outside the classroom were reported by teachers as follows: field trips--42%, outdoor investigations--25%, Project Wild activities--5%, Project Learning Tree activities--5%, none--22%, and 1% did not respond.

Represented in Table 4, are pedagogies utilized outside classrooms that were rated by educators to grade levels. Field trips were utilized with the greatest
frequency in junior high and high school grades, although on average, nearly a quarter of all teachers utilized outdoor investigations. Project Wild and Project Learning Tree activities were utilized by the fewest teachers.

Table 4
Various Pedagogies in Science Instruction Utilized Outside Classrooms by Northeastern Louisiana Teachers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pedagogy</th>
<th>Grades K-3</th>
<th>Grades 4-6</th>
<th>Grades 7-12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field trips</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor investigations</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Wild activities</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Learning Tree Activities</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By their geographic location, educators rated their use of science instruction outside classrooms. As shown in Table 5, science teachers across northeastern Louisiana were utilizing opportunities presented outside their classroom to facilitate learning. Suburban teachers both utilized all of the pedagogies included in this study, and took their students on more field trips than did the teachers in other locales. The data indicated that the teachers in inner city schools conducted more outdoor investigations than did teachers in other locales.
Table 5

Various Pedagogies in Science Instruction Utilized Outside Classrooms by Northeastern Louisiana Teachers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pedagogy</th>
<th>Inner City</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Suburban</th>
<th>Urban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field trips</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor investigations</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Wild activities</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Learning Tree</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teachers rated the availability of computers in their science classrooms. Data suggested the following: one to four computers--18%, and none--82%. The availability of computers in their school's computer lab was reported by science teachers as follows: five or more computers--66%, one to four computers--4%, and none--30%. The incorporation of math into science lessons by teachers was reported as follows: yes--86% and no--14%.

Science teachers participating in this study were asked to furnish data suggesting provisions made for their attendance at instructional science conventions during the school day. Data suggested the following: 1-4 workshops attended annually--28%, and no workshops attended--72%. Provisions made which allowed respondents to attend
instructional science inservices during the school day were reported as follows: 1-4 inservices attended annually--31%, no inservices attended--68%, and not reported--1%. The number of science workshops, conventions, or inservices attended during the past 12 months was reported by teachers as follows: more than five--12%, one to four--41%, none--46%, and not reported--1%.

The level of confidence in individual science knowledge background required for teaching science classes was rated by teachers as follows: very comfortable--46%, somewhat secure--48%, and not at all secure--6%. Teachers rated individual confidence in presenting science concepts to their students as follows: very comfortable--52%, somewhat secure--47%, and not secure at all--1%.

How familiar with LaSIP were teacher participants in this study? Information was collected to ascertain northeastern Louisiana teachers' familiarity with LaSIP. Data suggested that 66% of the surveyed teachers were familiar with LaSIP and 34% were unfamiliar with this state science reform. Presented in Table 6 were the data concerning the familiarity with LaSIP of this study's respondents by locale. Rural school teachers were most familiar with, and inner city school teachers were least familiar with, the statewide science reform program. Sixteen percent of the surveyed educators had attended projects at Northeast Louisiana University, 17% had
attended projects at Louisiana Tech University, one percent had attended projects at another Louisiana university, 65% had not attended a LaSIP project, and 1% did not respond.

Table 6

**Familiarity of Study's Respondents with LaSIP by Locale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locale</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Suburban</th>
<th>Urban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inner City</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What money for supplies and materials was available for implementation of Project 2061 to northeastern Louisiana teacher participants? Teachers supplied data which suggested available money for science supplies and materials in northeastern Louisiana science classrooms. The availability of science lab equipment at the disposal of teachers in this survey was rated as follows: adequate—17%, minimal—82%, and did not respond—1%. Respondents reported the estimated monetary value of available science equipment by grade levels. Grade levels which possessed over $1,000 of equipment were as follows: grades K-3—24%, grades 4-6—18%, and grades 7-12—30%. Grade levels which had $501-$1000 of equipment were as follows: grades K-3—15%, grades 4-6—15%, and grades 7-12—30%. Grade levels which had $101-$500 of equipment were as follows: grades K-3—32%, grades 4-6—46%, and grades 7-12—35%. Grade levels which had $26-$100 of equipment were as follows: grades K-
3--15%, grades 4-6--18%, and grades 7-12--0%. Grade levels which had no equipment were as follows: grades K-3--8%, grades 4-6--3%, and grades 7-12--0%. Estimated monetary value of the available science equipment at respondents' schools were reported as follows: over $1000-23%, $501-$1000--18%, $101-$500--38%, $26-$100--13%, $5-$25--3%, and none--5%. By locales this study's data suggested estimates of monetary value of available science equipment. As evidenced by Table 7, suburban schools had more access to funds designated for science materials than did schools in other locales. Inner city schools had the least availability to funds for science equipment.

Table 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Inner City</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Suburban</th>
<th>Urban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5-25</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9%-$26-100</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$101-500</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27%-$501-1,000</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over $1,000</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Analysis

How important is science education for the 21st century as perceived by current science teachers? One
hundred percent of the participants in this study had taught science classes at either the elementary or the middle high level in northeastern Louisiana classrooms. Data suggested that ninety-seven percent of the surveyed educators rated science education to be very important as the United States entered the 21st century. Three percent of educators rated science education as somewhat important. This collected evidence suggested that a majority of classroom science teachers rated science education as greatly important to the future of America.

Did teachers use pedagogical methods suggested by Project 2061? Providing students with opportunities to learn through hands-on investigations was a key component of Project 2061. Data supplied by science educators in this study suggested that 83% of science teachers in northeastern Louisiana recognized the importance of hands-on investigations. Gathered data suggested that when analyzed by locale, rural schools placed the greatest value on hands on investigations. Suburban schools ranked second, inner city schools ranked third, and urban schools ranked fourth. Among the 55% of teachers who responded that hands-on investigations were of great importance, research suggested the level of perceived importance decreased as the educational level of the students increased. This study's research suggested that teachers of grades K-3
considered hands-on to be of much greater importance than did teachers of grades 7-12.

Of the 83% of science educators who in this study valued hands-on investigations, 60% provided laboratory studies at least once a week as a part of their science program. Data suggested that cooperative learning groups in which all students in class participated were utilized in over half of the laboratory lessons. Other laboratory teaching methods were small group demonstrations and teacher demonstrations.

Project 2061 recognized the value of students utilizing activities outside the classroom to learn science. Data gathered in this study suggested that 78% of northeastern Louisiana science teachers employ various pedagogies outside the classroom including field trips, outdoor investigations, Project Wild, and Project Learning Tree activities. Geo-demographic data suggested that educators in suburban schools provided more science instruction outside the classroom than did rural schools which ranked second, inner city schools which ranked third or urban schools which ranked fourth. Suburban teachers may have more financial, economic resources for outside class instructions.

Project 2061 recognized that due to the great advancements in worldwide technology, America's students must achieve a proficiency in the use of technical tools to
successfully compete in the global market. Data suggested that although 70% of the science teachers in northeastern Louisiana schools had access to a computer lab, only 18% of the teachers had computers in their classrooms. Respondents suggested that math was being incorporated into science lessons by 86% of grades K-12 science teachers.

The science reform movement, Project 2061, advocated that teachers periodically receive instruction both in the areas of science content and methodology. This study's data suggested that provisions had been made that enabled 30% of northeastern Louisiana teachers to attend workshops and inservices during school hours. Fifty-three percent of science teachers had attended conventions during the past twelve months. When asked to rate their level of confidence in individual science knowledge backgrounds, 46% of the respondents were very secure and 48% were somewhat secure in their ability to present science concepts to their students.

How familiar with LaSIP were teacher participants in this study? Data suggested that 66% of the surveyed teachers were familiar with LaSIP, and 34% had participated in summer LaSIP projects. Data suggested that educators in rural areas were most familiar with LaSIP. Teachers in suburban areas ranked second, in inner city schools ranked third, and in urban schools ranked fourth.
What money for supplies and materials was available for implementation of Project 2061 to northeastern Louisiana teacher participants? Data suggested that only 12% of the teachers in this survey rated as sufficient the availability of money at their disposal for science supplies and equipment. Forty-one percent of teachers supplied their science classrooms with materials worth $500.00 or more. Data suggested that rural teachers had access to the largest monetary funds for furnishing science classrooms.

Ninety-seven science teachers responded to the research survey. Ninety-seven percent of the surveyed educators perceived science education to be very important. Eighty-five percent of the teachers presented science lessons at least three times a week. Of the 70% of surveyed teachers who provided science laboratory studies at least once a week, 55% utilized cooperative learning groups. Seventy-seven percent of the teachers provided science instruction outside the classroom. Thirty-four percent of the teachers had participated in a LaSIP project at a Louisiana university. Seventeen percent of the teachers rated available lab equipment as adequate, and 41% of the teachers supplied their science classrooms with $500.00 (in supplies and materials) or less.
Conclusions

1. A majority of the northeastern Louisiana science teachers who responded to the questionnaire recognized that science education was very important as the United States entered the 21st century.

2. All of the pedagogies suggested by Project 2061 had been utilized in varying degrees by northeastern Louisiana teachers.

3. Northeastern Louisiana teachers were fairly knowledgeable of LaSIP which has served as the launch vehicle within Louisiana for Project 2061.

4. Money for science equipment and supplies was inadequate.

Recommendations

1. Since early research suggests that LaSIP benefits science education in Louisiana, funding for this program must be maintained.

2. Information concerning LaSIP projects must be broadly disseminated, so that many teachers can participate.

3. Individual school districts and regional service centers should continue to offer science based inservices and workshops for teachers.

4. The impact of Project 2061, on northeastern Louisiana schools, should be researched further. Another
study utilizing a larger population should be conducted for a longer time period.

5. Information should be sought to determine why more teachers of grades 4-6 favored hands on learning than any other grade level.

6. Research should be collected to determine what effect, if any, grant writing has had on the amount of science equipment in northeastern Louisiana classrooms.
References


Helgeson, S. L. (1992, June 12). *Trends and issues in science education*. Keynote address presented to the International Symposium on Science Education; National Taiwan Normal University; Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China.


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