Understanding the Major Work of the 3–5 Grade Band

This full-day, six-hour session develops participants' understanding of fundamental mathematics. The session showcases the coherence of multiplication and division as participants explore the development of those operations across the 3–5 grade band.

Participants are invited to study Problem Sets, analyze teaching sequences, deliver lesson segments, practice fluency activities, and model with mathematics. The use of tape diagrams, place value charts, arrays, area models, and unit language supports participants in making connections between content areas, as they multiply and divide whole numbers, fractions, and decimals. Participants see that although units change (e.g., from whole numbers to fractions), the models, representations, and properties of arithmetic remain the same.

Participants can expect to deepen their understanding of

- the difference between partitive and measurement division.
- how tape diagrams and number bonds support students' development with problem solving.
- multiplication and division with larger units by using the support of place value models.
- how the distributive property prepares students for using the area model to multiply larger whole numbers, decimals, and fractions.
- unit language—how it bridges understanding of whole numbers to decimal fractions and relates multiplication of decimals to multiplication of fractions.
- using tape diagrams to solve decimal and fraction division expressions.
- using the area model to solve word problems and interpret the areas of rectangles with mixed number side lengths.