

Workforce 2000 "Rhode Island School of the Future"

Workforce 2000's "R.I. School of the Future" project provides staff development workshops, classroom support and materials to educators who wish to create new learning environments for children through the combined use of technology and "constructionist" learning approaches. The constructionist classroom allows students to act like "real" scientists, "real" writers, and "real" inventors. Students learn ways of thinking critically and develop strategies for solving personally engaging problems.

Several schools in Rhode Island have been introduced to these innovative materials and methods developed by Seymour Papert and the Learning and Epistemology Group at MIT. The project, intended for teams of educators in grades 2 through 8, is designed to improve the performance of America's youth in an increasingly com-

petitive world economy. In addition to the extensive inservice workshops, the Workforce grant has supported the participation of R.I. educators in a three week summer program at the International Center for Technology and Education in Hartford, Connecticut. This National Science Foundation sponsored program offered a unique opportunity to live, learn, collaborate, and work in a context enriched by the presence of educators and scientists from around the world.

The project is presently accepting applications from additional schools who exhibit a willingness to take a look at learning in the "information age" and a commitment to the use of technology in the education process. Priority will be given to schools with "at-risk" populations. Interested schools can write the Teacher Education and Computer Center, PO Box 4692, Middletown, RI 02840 or call the project director Janice C. Kowalczyk at (401) 849-7546.



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