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Establishing and Maintaining a Math Teachers Circle.

From writing grants to planning sessions to reaching teachers, running a viable Math Teachers Circle (MTC) is a challenging and rewarding charge for our core team. This presentation outlines three key structures that have helped us establish and sustain teacher participation for our MTC in Thousand Oaks in California.

The first structure is planning – how we set up individual and collective duties for our 5-member team of three mathematicians and two middle school teachers. The second is delivering mathematics content and pedagogy – how we seek questions that are of “low-entry and high-exit” for teachers to explore and apply to their own classrooms. The third structure is about building community. This might be the least well defined structure and yet the most critical in sustaining a healthy and thriving MTC.

The Common Core State Standards and the 8 Mathematical Practices need to become an integral part of MTC. Teachers need to find tangible benefits and value in their participation in MTC as professional development in order to sustain their own involvement. (Received September 07, 2014)