
To accomplish meaningful and effective implementation of mathematics learning standards, teachers need opportunities for continued professional growth in their mathematical knowledge for teaching (CBMS, 2012). Indeed, the mathematical demands of teaching require specialized mathematical knowledge not needed in other settings (Ball et al., 2008).

Based upon the input from the 20 member organizations of the Oklahoma Mathematics Alliance, a root cause analysis indicated that limited access, time, and funding for highly relevant, comprehensive professional learning experiences, along with the pressures of state assessments and accountability measures, often lead to minimal intervention in this critical component of excellent teaching.

The Like Terms Community is Oklahoma’s initial solution to this complex issue. We are actively engaging in monthly virtual department meetings, called Like Terms Communities, that incorporate mathematics content knowledge across the grade bands and rely on a collaborative leadership triad structure comprised of representatives from the K-12 mathematics education community, the pure and applied mathematics community, and the pre-service teacher education community. (Received September 26, 2017)