Delving into Differentiation

Belle Rush (pictured right), Mathematics Intervention Teacher at Chandlers Elementary, Logan County Schools, has created “Delving into Differentiation,” a professional development program with color-coded activity folders for use by primary teachers who have previously learned, through the Kentucky Center for Mathematics teacher growth program, to identify student need and provide targeted instruction for developing early numeracy. Along with other Logan County Mathematics Intervention Teachers Cher Rosser and Jan Estes, Belle has recently delivered this advanced 2-day numeracy development growth opportunity to 42 enthusiastic Kentucky teachers.

Belle notes the positive systemic change that has been a benefit of the Kentucky Mathematics Achievement Intervention program, resulting in fewer students needing mathematics intervention (see graph left) and changes in classroom practice, “Teachers are becoming more focused on teaching children and are learning to use assessment data (including school-wide data and intervention diagnostic data) to address individual needs in students. Many of them are also moving away from strictly paper and pencil drill to more of a hands-on, child-centered approach.” She is also looking forward to implementing the new common core mathematics standards which will be a good fit for the progress begun through the Mathematics Achievement Intervention Program.

“I am excited about the new standards having more depth and being more focused on number sense at the primary level. I think the standards will be more teacher friendly.”