

ASSET

Answers Your Questions About Its Inquiry-Based Learning

1. What is ASSET?

ASSET (Allegheny Schools Science Education and Technology) Inc. is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to systemic reform. Its mission is to continuously improve the competencies of teachers, with an initial focus on science education.

2. Is ASSET's inquiry-based education different than traditional methods?

Yes Traditional teaching methods are guided by textbook. ASSET teachers use units of carefully-selected teaching tools to demonstrate important scientific concepts that students can really **See, Touch and Understand.**

3. Is ASSET expensive?

No ASSET's engaging hands-on education is a remarkable value. Its reasonable annual cost compares favorably to the traditional purchase of textbooks incurred every five years.

4. Do ASSET's professional development courses apply directly to the curriculum?

Yes ASSET trains teachers through a series of clear, comprehensive professional development courses and institutes that show teachers how to approach the ASSET materials they receive and know the very best ways to inspire their students.

5. Do ASSET students perform better?

Yes Standardized tests indicate that ASSET students score, on average, higher than students across the U.S, and students in districts with sustained involvement in ASSET tend to perform significantly higher.

6. Does ASSET affect classroom subjects other than science?

Yes Recent studies indicate that ASSET science students also tend to score higher on standardized tests in math and reading than their peers.

7. Does it take long to become an ASSET member district?

No The average school district needs 2 hours to create the overall plan to implement the standards-based materials and professional development they need to teach the program.

8. Is the success of ASSET affected by a student's race, gender or background?

No In fact, the ASSET program overcomes boundaries. Girls, boys, students of every race and economic background... all are engaged in learning and demonstrate improvement.

9. Can any elementary or middle school grade participate in the ASSET program?

Yes ASSET offers hands-on inquiry and professional development for teachers and students from kindergarten to eighth grade.

10. Are many schools currently participating in ASSET?

Yes A total of 35 districts to date (2003) — 177 schools serving approximately 50,000 students — have joined in the SWPA ASSET collaborative team.

11. Can I bring the ASSET program to my area?

Yes Contact us today at 412-771-2121 or visit our web site at www.assetinc.org for more information.