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An Investigation of the Project TEACH On-line Learning Community for In-Service Teachers Seeking ESL Supplemental Certification

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Abstract

Online learning is proposed as a convenient way to provide professional development experiences. The insular nature of teaching and rural communities makes online learning a necessity as demographic shifts in these communities continues and schools are challenged to meet the instructional needs of English language learners (ELLs). As part of a larger teacher preparation model (Project TEACH) to increase the capacity of teachers in rural regions of Texas, results indicate its promise to effectively provide an online learning community to develop in-service teachers' effectiveness in meeting the needs of ELLs. Although considerable refinements of the online community are warranted, participating teachers actively engaged in collaborative inquiry and critical reflection that are linked to increases in their knowledge structures

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