

08-21-08

SC3 Pre-Service Teacher Training Script

{We will start by introducing ourselves and state briefly the purpose of the focus group}

- As you all know, the goals of the Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign (SC3) program are to:
 - Remove accumulations of potentially dangerous chemicals from K-12 schools;
 - Prevent future accumulations through improved chemical management; and,
 - Raise national awareness of the issue.
- To help us reach these goals, the EPA SC3 team is calling on your expertise as we embark on our outreach to pre-service and student teachers.
- Your passion for and knowledge of the importance of training pre-service teachers before they enter the classroom about responsible chemical management will lend great credibility in reaching this audience.

Background/Context

{We will ask a background/contextual question to gauge the level of familiarity each person has with the issue of pre-service teacher training}

- Briefly describe your background and why you are interested in pre-service teacher training in responsible chemical management.
- In your experience, how do pre-service teachers generally learn about responsible chemical management?
- Are you aware of existing pre-service teacher trainings in responsible chemical management?

Curriculum-Specific Questions

- Have we identified all the various elements included in existing responsible chemical management training with which you are familiar? *[Existing training will be identified ahead of time]*
 - o Briefly discuss additional elements that should be added or deleted.
 - o Briefly discuss whether existing elements should be modified.
- What do you think would be the best way to present pre-service teacher training *[Existing ways to present training (e.g., classroom course; part of an existing classroom course; on the Internet.) will be identified ahead of time]*
- What, if any, modifications to existing pre-service training should be based on the type of school that the student will eventually teach in *[identified ahead of time, e.g., public, private, charter, magnet, vocational]* or subject that the pre-service student will eventually teach *[identified ahead of time, e.g., science, art, vocational, etc.]*? What about for programs such as "Teach for America?"
- Have we identified typical state policies *[identified ahead of time]* that would support pre-service teacher training in responsible chemical management? Do you think we should add or delete any of the identified policies?

Barriers to Developing, Improving, and/or Instituting Pre-service Teacher Training

- How would you rank barriers to adding responsible chemical management training to pre-service teacher course work?
 - Cost?
 - Lack of knowledgeable personnel?
 - University procedures?
 - Lack of accreditation?
 - Other?
- Are you aware of strategies that have been tried to overcome barriers to instituting pre-service teacher training in responsible chemical management?
 - Were they successful?
 - How could they have been improved?
 - Where have these strategies been implemented?

Promotion of Curriculum

- Do you know of approaches that have successfully resulted in responsible chemical management training being added to teacher course work?
- Do you know of policies that would help create a mandate for colleges and universities to provide pre-service teacher training on responsible chemical management?
- Who do you think would best promote pre-service teacher training within a state?
- What agencies or persons might serve as champions for instituting pre-service teacher training in colleges and universities?
- To your knowledge, what are the critical factors and steps to successfully incorporating a new concept into teacher certification/licensure?
- Do you know of any training or licensure programs for teachers of which we should be aware?
- What do you think is the role of the SC3 partners in promoting pre-service teacher training?
- Can you suggest an approach to pilot any curriculum we may develop or modify?