



Mathematical Thinking
for Instruction (MTI)

Frequently Asked Questions

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Q: What if I need to recertify my Idaho Teaching License and I am currently living out of state and am unable to attend the MTI course for recertification purposes?

Q: Who do I contact if I have more questions about MTI?

Q: Can I miss a class session and still complete the course?

Q: What are teachers saying about the course?

Q: What is the MTI course?

A: With the help of Idaho teachers and math education experts, the State Department of Education created the Mathematical Thinking for Instruction (MTI) course, a three-credit course that gives Idaho teachers and administrators the best practices and teaching strategies they need to help all students succeed in math. The MTI course will be required for certification in 2014. The MTI course was developed by a committee of educators under the direction of the State Department of Education and Dr. Jonathan Brendefur, who manages the Developing Mathematical Thinking Institute (DMT) at Boise State University. Based on feedback from this committee, the MTI was split into three different sections based on grade level -- grades K-3 focusing on early number sense, grades 4-8 focusing on rational number sense, and grades 6-12 focusing on algebraic thinking. Teachers will be required to take only one of these courses by 2014 for recertification. Teachers and administrators have a choice of which class they take, but they are strongly encouraged to take the course that most closely matches their teaching assignment.

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Q: The MTI class I want to get into is full. What do I do? Is there a waiting list?

A: The MTI budget is built to provide enough courses for approximately 2000-2200 teachers per year. We provide approximately 50% of the classes in the summer and 25% in fall and spring each. The demand for the classes is high and they do fill up quickly.

If the class you want to take is full we recommend that you keep an eye on the registration website, particularly as the first class date approaches. People will often drop the course for various reasons, when this happens we open up spots on the registration website. We are unable to keep waiting lists due to the large number of classes we offer.

The link to the registration website and the information regarding upcoming dates when MTI schedules will be posted and classes available for registration can also be found on this website:

<http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/math/mti.htm>

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Q: The MTI class I want to get into is full. Can I sign up for a different grade-level course?

Example: You are a 4th grade teacher and the 4-8 course is full, should you sign up for the 6-12 course?

A: In terms of the state certification requirement you are not required to take a particular grade-level course. However, in terms of applicability to your classroom **we highly recommend you sign-up for the grade-level band that most closely matches your grade-level assignment.** If the class you want to take is full we recommend that you keep an eye on the registration website, particularly as the first class date approaches. People will often drop the course for various reasons, when this happens we open up spots on the registration website. We are unable to keep waiting lists due to the large number of classes we offer.

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Q: When is the MTI course offered?

A: MTI classes are offered in the fall, spring, and summer of each year in every region of Idaho. There are 25 or more classes held in the fall and spring and 40 or more classes held during the summer months. Each class can accommodate between 25-32 participants.

Our goal is to accommodate 2,000-2,200 educators each year between the years 2009-2014.

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Q: How much does it cost?

A: The State Department of Education pays for the creation and delivery of the Mathematical Thinking Instruction class out of the Math Initiative Budget. There is no cost for you to attend the course. **The legislature has passed rule to allow completion of the course to carry the same weight as 3 semester transcribed graduate credit for the purposes of recertification and movement across the state salary schedule.**

Idaho Code 33 – 1004A

“...state-approved mathematical thinking for instruction course shall be counted as transcribed credit.”

If you would like to pay for 3 credits to use towards an advanced degree through an Idaho college, credit forms will be available on the last day of class. Credits are available for \$65 each for a total of \$195 for the 3 credit class.

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Q: How do I sign up for a class?

A: Visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/math/mti.htm> to find a current list of scheduled classes and sign up information. Schedules are posted 2 weeks prior to registration.

Sign up for summer and fall courses occurs in April and May. Sign up for spring classes occurs in October.

Sign up is first come, first serve and open to all Idaho educators.

Registration begins promptly at 8:00 a.m. (7:00 a.m. PST) on the date advertised on the SDE website. Each person must register himself or herself.

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Q: Who can take the MTI course?

A: Idaho certified teachers and administrators can take the MTI course. The following list is a description of who must take the course for recertification.

- *Teachers holding an Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education Blended Certificate (Birth- Grade 3) who is employed in an elementary classroom (multi-subject classroom, K-8)
- *Teachers holding a Standard Elementary Certificate (K-8)
- *Teachers holding a Standard Secondary Certificate (6-12) teaching in a math content classroom (grade six through grade twelve) including Title I classrooms
- *Teachers holding a Standard Exceptional Child Certificate (K-12)
- *School administrators holding an Administrator Certificate (PreK-12)

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Q: I'm a 7th grade teacher. Should I take the 4-8 or 6-12 course?

A: Either, but consider the 6-12 course is geared more toward algebraic thinking and the 4-8 course focuses on rational number sense.

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Q: I recertify in 2012. Do I need to take the course by 2012?

A: No, you may take the course anytime before 2014, not necessarily by 2012.

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Q: Do music and PE teachers need to take the MTI class?

A: All certified K-8 teachers and secondary certified teachers with a math endorsement are required to take the class by the year 2014. Please see the website for more information on certification requirements: <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/math/mti.htm>

If your only certificate is a standard secondary certificate, with a K-12 music or P.E. endorsement, you do not need to take the MTI course.

Q: I'm not currently teaching, but would like to maintain my license. Do I need to take the class?

A: Yes. You can sign up for the MTI class of your choice. Sign up is first come, first serve and open to all Idaho educators.

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Q: Is there a way to opt out of the course?

A: No, the Idaho Math Initiative task force believes it is critical for every elementary and math teacher to receive this training.

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Q: Will the MTI course be available online?

A: We are working on developing a hybrid version of the MTI course. We will pilot it this fall in Region 4. It will involve meeting 3 full days and then completing the remainder of the coursework online. If this goes well, we will try a larger pilot across the state in the spring of 2012. Other ideas are in the works to provide online learning opportunities, however these are tentative due to several factors such as budget and scheduling issues

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Q: What if I need to recertify my Idaho Teaching License and I am currently living out of state and am unable to complete the MTI course for recertification purposes?

A: While a blended online course is currently being piloted, an asynchronous online MTI course is not available; a plan for future development is being considered. In the meantime, for out-of-state educators who need to recertify, recertification will be granted, with the condition that the MTI course must be completed within two years of return to the state of Idaho. When submitting paperwork for recertification, include a note that you are currently out-of-state and will be taking the MTI course upon your return.

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Q: Who do I contact if I have more questions about MTI?

A: MTI Regional Math Specialists are working in each region of the state to provide support to districts in implementing the MTI practices. These specialists will be coordinating with IDMT staff to schedule MTI classes in all regions of Idaho. Please contact them if you have questions regarding the MTI classes. Contact information is on the next slide.

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MTI Regional Math Specialists

- Region I: Abe Wallin abewallin@boisestate.edu
- Region II: Christina Tondevold christinatondevoid@boisestate.edu
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- Regions III-IV: Grades K-3: Sarah Reynolds
sarahreynolds@boisestate.edu
- Regions III-IV: Grades 4-8: Jackie Ismail
jacquelynismail@boisestate.edu
- Regions III-IV: Grades 6-12: Gwyneth Hughes, PhD.
gwynethhughes@boisestate.edu
- Regions V-VI: Karin Moscon karinmoscon@boisestate.edu

Q: Can I miss a class session and still complete the course?

A: Spring 2011 Course Attendance Policy: All participants are expected to attend all class meetings. If you must miss a classing meeting, please make arrangements ahead of time with the instructor as soon as possible. Missing more than one class meeting (or half of a Saturday meeting if your class meets on Saturday's) will result in the participant having to withdraw from the course and take it at a later date. The course is very intensive. In addition to attendance, there will be reading assignments to be completed between each class meeting. All coursework must be completed by the end of the last class meeting.

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Q: What are teachers saying about the course?

- “Even though I majored in math in college, I never really understood the why or how it worked. I’ve been stuck in the box all this time and I didn’t know it! As an elementary principal, thanks for helping our teachers get out of the box too. I can’t wait to see what they incorporate into their teaching this next year! Thanks for helping us learn and grow as educators!”
- “Wow! Thank you for an amazing week! I thought I understood math. I really was good at memorizing rules. This will really change how I teach. Not a moment wasted this week!”
- “... I’d like to thank you again for a wonderful week of math. I’m sitting here with my math book and solving problems using various methods. My husband told me I have all summer and I need to give it a break (but that’s not my style). I’m already excited about next school year.”