



# Investigations

in Number, Data, and Space®

## Unit Guides: Introduction

### Preparation to teach individual units in *Investigations*

The Unit Guides for *Investigations in Number, Data and Space* are designed as study guides to help teachers become familiar and comfortable with the mathematical content, the activities, and the overall structure of each unit. The Unit Guides provide a structure for working through student activities, reading support material, looking at student work that is embedded in the materials, and discussing critical issues about mathematics and pedagogy. The expectation is that groups of teachers will work together on these Guides in preparation to teach a unit in their classroom. Below are some suggestions of how best to incorporate these Unit Guides into your professional development program.

- In order to get the most use from these Guides, it is important that groups of teachers from the same grade level work on a Guide together. This way, teachers can do the activities together and respond to the discussion questions.
- The Unit Guides are written with the assumption that teachers will read the “Mathematics in This Unit” essay before attending the Unit Guide session.
- A list of suggested materials and photocopied handouts for each unit is found at the beginning of each guide and should be prepared before the session begins.
- Unit Guides may be used independently by groups of teachers, with one teacher taking on the lead role, or you may have a Teacher Leader/Coach who can contribute some guidance or experience. The leader’s role during the session is to act as a resource: answering questions, clarifying instructions, and prompting discussion when appropriate.
- In order to gain a real sense of the preparation, effort, and mathematics in the activities, it is imperative that teachers not just read through but actually *do* all of the activities suggested in the Unit Guides.
- As a follow up to a Unit Guide session, it is helpful for teachers to meet periodically while the unit is ongoing in their classrooms to support each other, seek and offer advice, and work together to evaluate sets of student work.

Each Unit Guide is designed to take three hours, but could also be adapted and used flexibly in a variety of different settings.