



# Champlain Valley Educator Development Center

Collaborative Professional Learning to Support Vermont Schools

## Math for Struggling Learners

Instructors: John R. Tapper, Ph.D. and Sandi Stanhope

Summer 2017

Target Audience: Math Instructors and Interventionists Gr K-8

MSL is a 3 credit course that answers the question: What can I do for the students in my class who have difficulty with mathematics? The techniques in this course have been used by hundreds of regular and special education teachers to *understand* - and then teach - the students in their classes who need support. The emphasis in MSL is to first gain a deep understanding of how a struggling student understands key concepts, and then to build an intervention to address her thinking. The course includes mathematical explorations, techniques for investigating student thinking, ways to build learner independence, and approaches for making instructional teams to implement interventions.

### Course Objectives

- Identify common barriers to learning mathematics and strategies to help learners overcome these barriers
- Use whole class and individual assessment tools to identify particular learning struggles
- Make sound instructional recommendations based on assessment gathered from a variety of sources
- Learn new instructional strategies for areas of mathematics that are particularly likely to cause struggles
- Understand the underlying reasoning – additive, multiplicative, and proportional – that supports mathematical thinking in the elementary school
- Be familiar and comfortable with a variety of alternative and/or student conceived algorithms for common problems involving number, especially related to fractions, decimals and percents

**Dr. John Tapper** is an associate professor of elementary education at the University of Hartford and teaches courses in mathematics, mathematics education, and science education. His focus is on helping teaching candidates learn best practices for teaching math and science. His approach is active, inquiry-based, and centered on the learner. He is the author of this course's text.

**Sandi Stanhope** is a 2010 graduate of VMI. She worked in Franklin County for over 30 years as a primary classroom teacher, teacher leader, math interventionist, and math coach. As a primary mathematics consultant she provides professional development through teaching workshops and graduate level courses in school districts across Vermont.



### **Dates:**

June 22, 23, 26 and 27  
8:30 am – 4:00 pm

### **Plus:**

2 follow up dates  
Oct. 23 and Nov. 16  
4:00 – 8:00 pm

### **Location:**

CVEDC  
Fort Ethan Allen,  
Colchester

### **Cost:**

CVEDC Members:  
\$825 w/out credit  
\$1200 w/grad credit\*  
Non-Members:  
\$925/\$1300\*

\*includes 3 grad credits from St. Michael's College and text: **Solving for Why: Understanding, Assessing, and Teaching Students Who Struggle with Mathematics, K-8** by Dr. John Tapper

To Register: [www.cvedcvt.org](http://www.cvedcvt.org)

Questions? [info@cvedcvt.org](mailto:info@cvedcvt.org)

Or call: 802-497-1642



Are you a CVEDC Member?  
All schools in Addison, Chittenden,  
Grand Isle and Franklin Counties  
are members.