# THE RITES MODEL: G6-12 AND HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP WORKING TO IMPROVE SCIENCE EDUCATION IN RHODE ISLAND





Joshua Caulkins, Daniel Murray, Glenisson de Oliveira, and Anne Veeger RITES Project, Rhode Island (NSF MSP #0831974)

## RITES Partnership











#### South Kingstown Public Schools



Cranston Public Schools





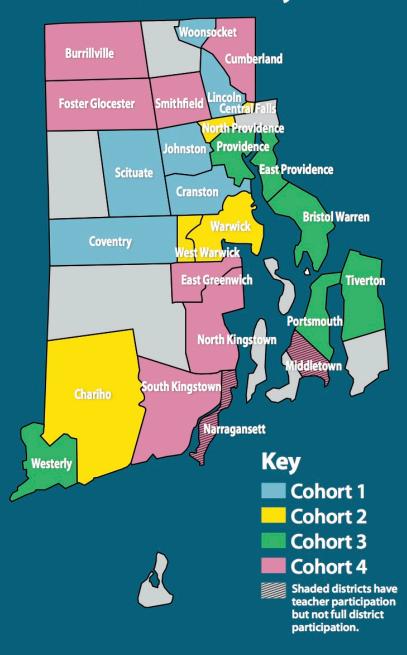


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- All the complexity of a large state education system in one-quarter the area of Los Angeles County. In Rhode Island, there are:
  - 145,000 K-12 students in total
  - O 36 school districts (64 HS, 58 MS, 208 ES)

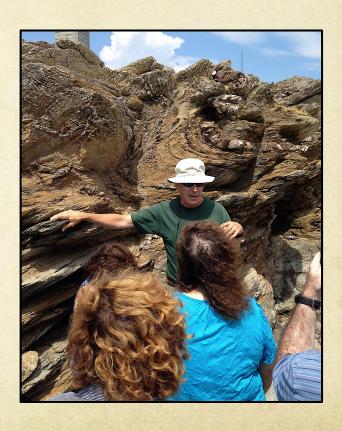
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  - 145,000 K-12 students in total
  - O 36 school districts (64 HS, 58 MS, 208 ES)
- O RITES goal: 75% science teachers in 75% of the middle/high schools
  - Currently 10% over our goal

#### **RITES School Districts by Cohort**



RITES is statewide (colored districts)

- O Teaching Teachers...
  - O Professional Development Model
    - O Resource Teams
      - Pairs of Instructors
      - O Content Expertise, Pedagogy Expertise
      - O Develop a short course and "investigation"
    - O 28 Higher Education faculty
    - O 25 G6-12 Teachers



- Teaching Teachers...
  - Professional Development Model
    - 40+ Online Investigations Developed
      - O Earth Science, Physical Science, Life Science
    - O Summer Sessions
      - 12 courses taught each summer
      - 100 to 150 teachers trained each summer

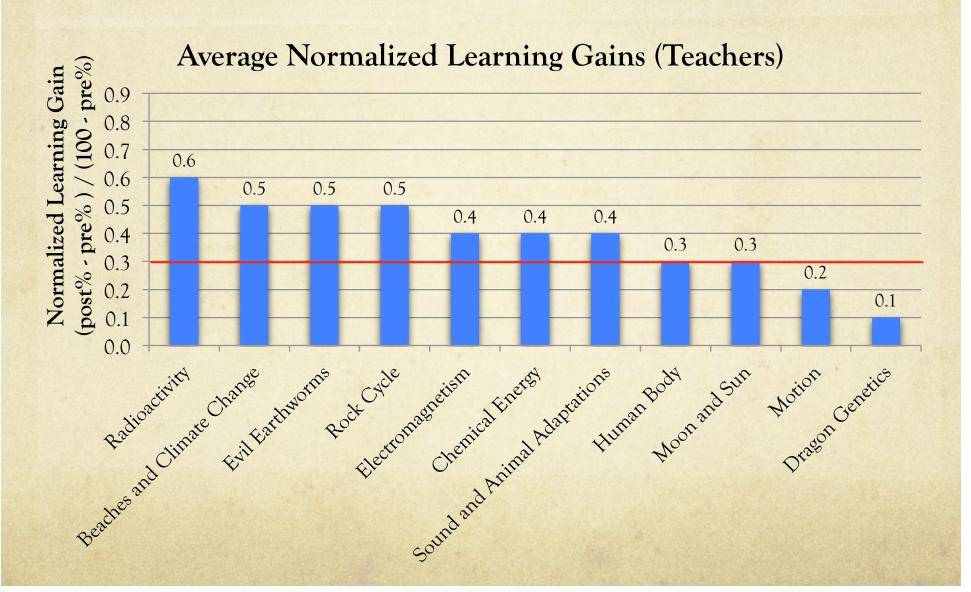


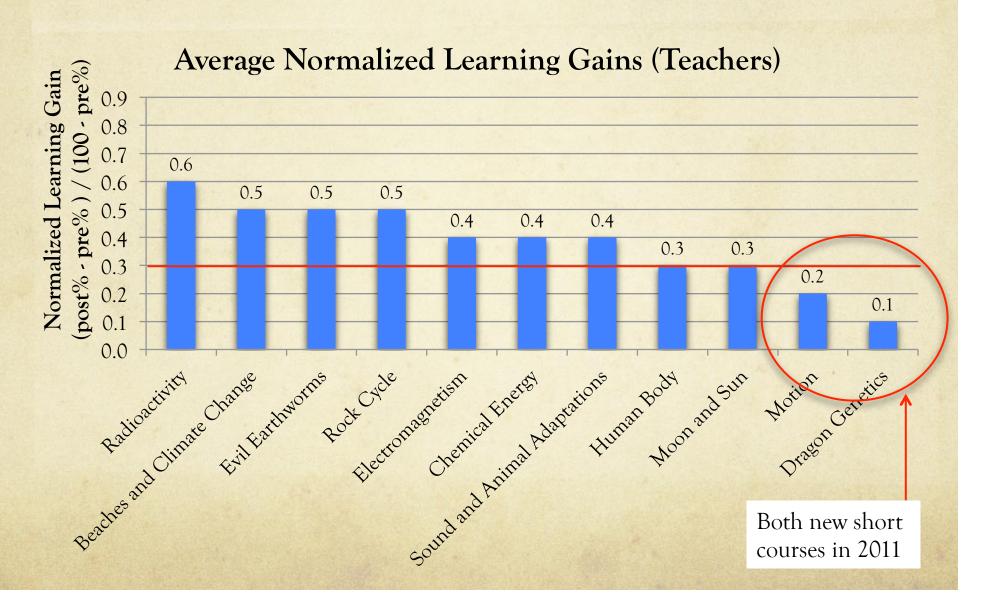
- Teaching Teachers...
  - Professional Development Model
    - O Teachers must:
      - O Participate for 2 years
      - O Take 2 courses each summer
      - Participate in Fall and Spring
         Conferences
      - O Develop and present teacher "artifact"

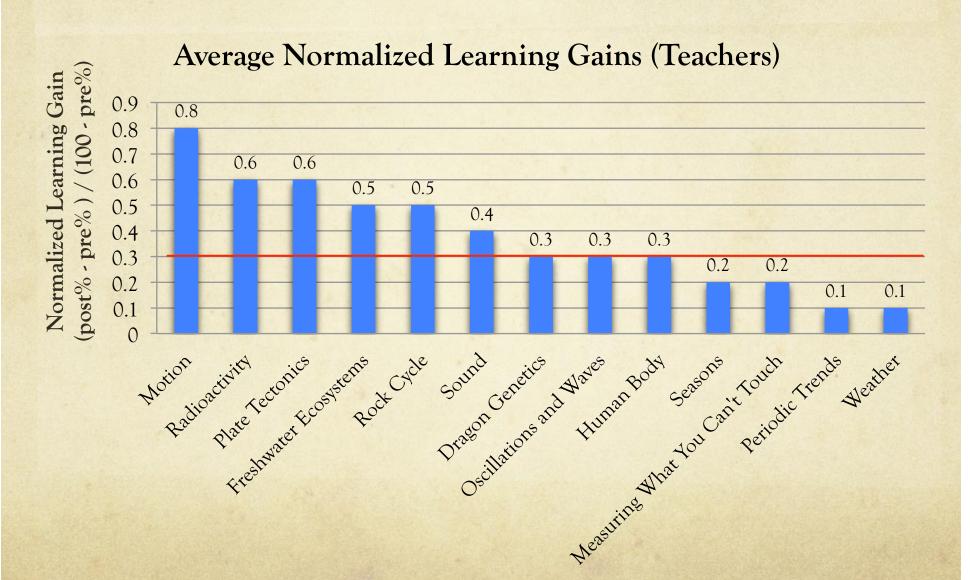


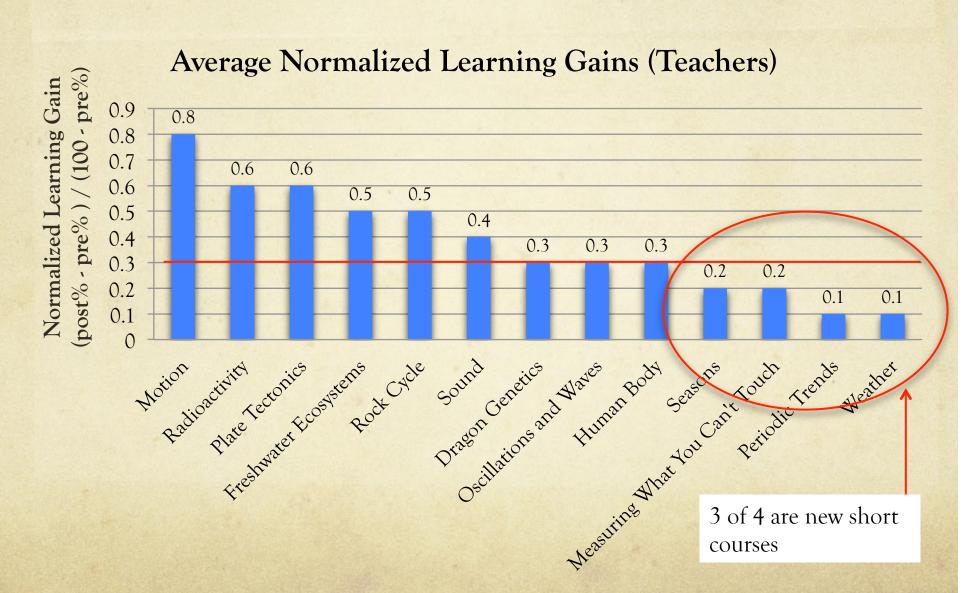
#### RITES Outcomes and Effectiveness

- O Pre-Post Test Scores of Teachers (Summer Short Courses)
- Modified RTOP Scores
- Pre-Post Test Scores for Students of RITES Teachers (Investigations)
- O Teacher Satisfaction Data
- O NECAP Scores

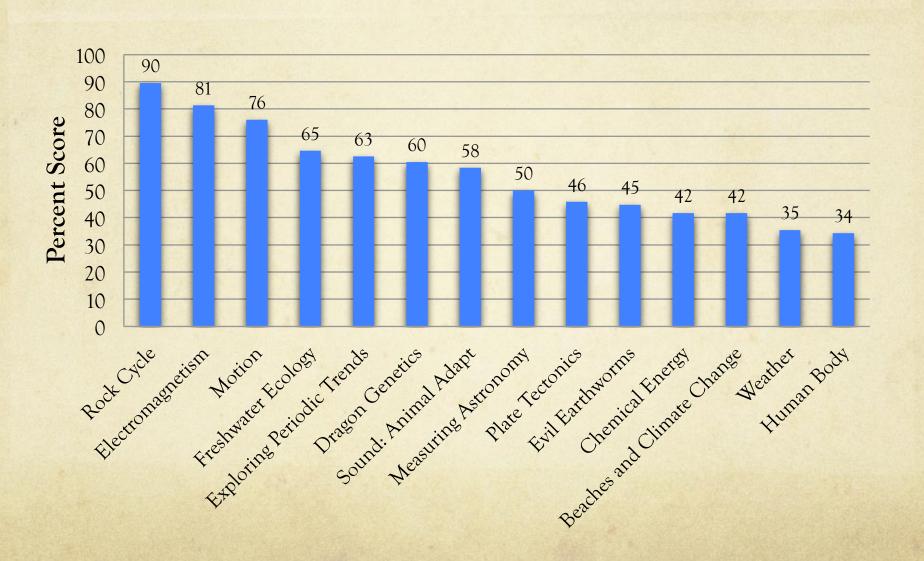




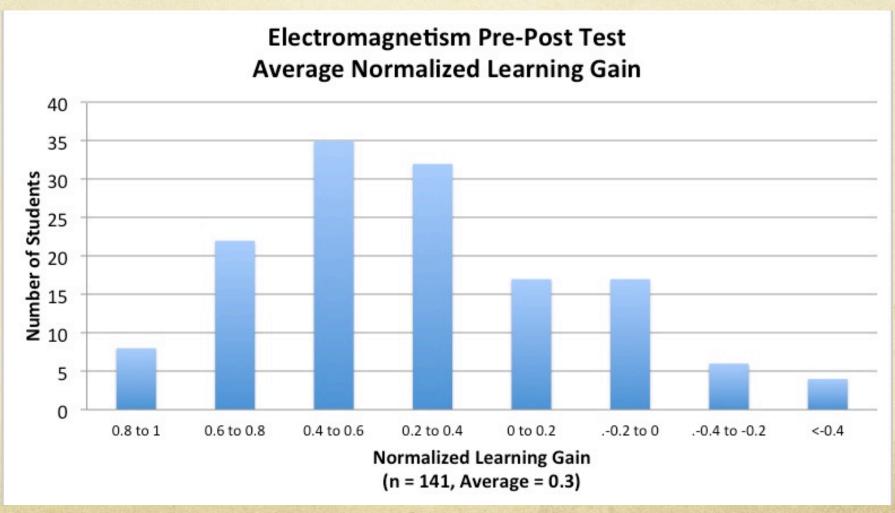




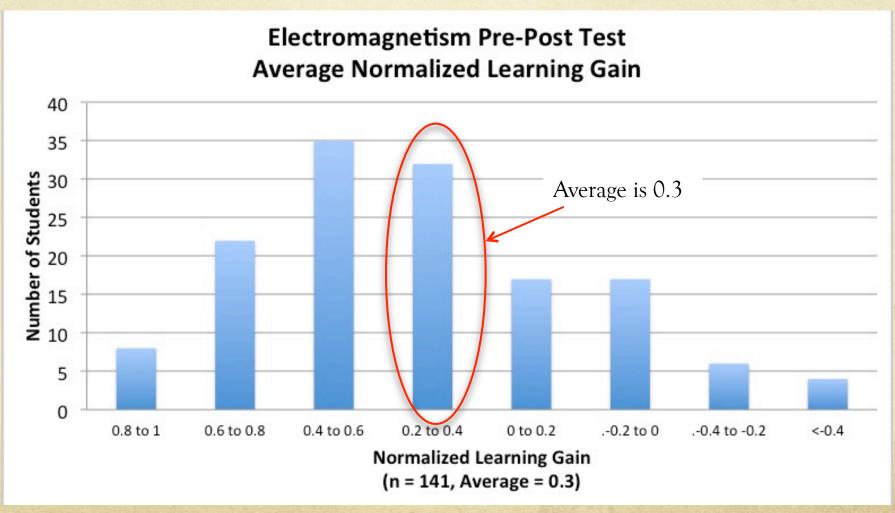
### Modified RTOP Scores



## RITES Classroom Normalized Learning Gains



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## Teacher Satisfaction Surveys

(Surveys used a 4-point Likert scale: Strongly Agree – Agree – Disagree – Strongly Disagree)

Survey Question	Agree	Disagree	n
1. Well Planned/Organized	99	1	343
2. Well Prepared	99	1	343
3. Variety of Learning Styles	96	4	342
4. Appropriate Pace	92	8	343
5. Topics Met Need/Concern	92	8	342
6. Participants Prior Experiences Used	97	3	336
7. Adequate Time to Reflect	94	6	342
8. Questions and Concerns Handled Appropriately	99	1	339
9. Feel Prepared to Use RITES	93	7	338
10. Will Use More Inquiry Activities	90	10	338
11. Increased my Knowledge	88	12	341
12. Feel More Comfortable Using Technology	83	17	334
13. Feel Well Prepared to Use Activities that Integrate Math/Science	87	13	339
14. Shared Ideas w/ Other Teachers	97	3	341
15. Would Recommend to Other Teachers	95	5	343
16. Overall Successful Learning Experience	94	6	343

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(Surveys used a 4-point Likert scale: Strongly Agree – Agree – Disagree – Strongly Disagree)

Survey Question			Agree	Disagree	n
1. Well Planned/Organized			99	1	343
2. Well Prepared	Overall, highly		99	1	343
3. Variety of Learning Styles	satisfied with PD		96	4	342
4. Appropriate Pace			92	8	343
5. Topics Met Need/Concern		4	92	8	342
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### Student Standardized Test Scores

- O Preliminary results from NECAP data:
  - Students who received Science instruction from a RITES-trained teacher are likely to have better Science Inquiry skills than students who did not receive RITES-trained instruction.
  - Only apparent after 2<sup>nd</sup> year of training; one year of training does not show an effect on the standardized test scores. Consistent with current findings that > 1 year of PD is required.

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#### **Example District:**

	<u>Spring 2010</u>			Spring 2			
	M	(SD)	n	M	(SD)	n	
RITES	7.10	(3.08)	101	9.68	(3.29)	182	
Non-RITES	7.37	(3.26)	194	8.07	(4.52)	56	
Difference	-0.27			1.61			
t-test	t(293) = 0.69			$t(236) = 2.92 \ (@ p < .01)$			

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#### Resource Team Model

According to unpublished work by RITES-affiliated researchers (Knowlton, Fogleman and Reichsman), resource team members, both higher education and G6-12 teacher members, expressed high levels of satisfaction and their intention to continue their partnership via classroom visits, resource sharing, and University courses for teachers.

## Summary

- RITES PD model is having an significant impact on teacher content gains and student content and inquiry gains evidenced through pre-post testing.
- Short courses are learner-centered, inquiry-driven and highly interactive.
- O Teachers value the multi-year approach.
- O Student standardized test scores of RITES teachers showed increases when compared to non-RITES teachers.
- O Visit our website and checkout the FREE online investigations:
  - www.ritesproject.net

## Special thanks to...



- O Rhode Island teachers
- Rhode Island students
- Partnering RI School Districts
- RITES Researchers (Stephen Brand, Sarah Knowlton, Jay Fogleman, and Frieda Reichsman)
- Consortium

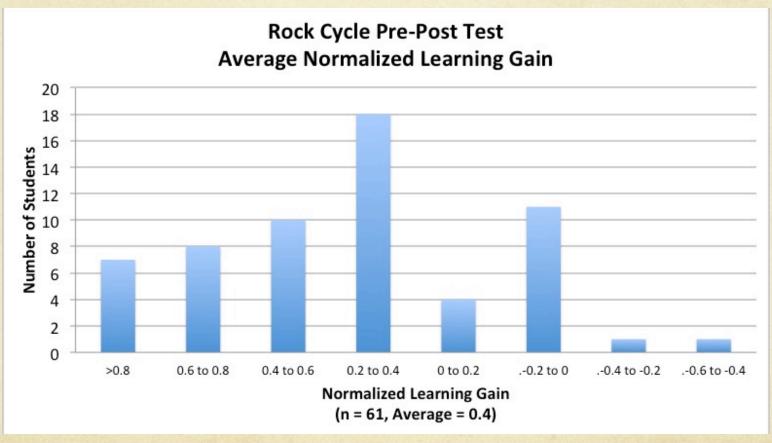
  Education Alliance (Brown) and Concord
  Consortium
- O NSF MSP Program





www.ritesproject.net

## RITES Classroom Normalized Learning Gains



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