



Math Benchmarking

Description

A success oriented math program that changes the belief systems of adults and students to one that sees all students as able to achieve in math. The program is developed by teachers using state and national math standards as a guide. Students learn to be responsible for their learning and view math as an important part of their future. Math becomes a driving force to create a school culture where all students are college and career ready.

Components

- Mathematical state standards are broken down into a set of student friendly “I Can” statements—also known as benchmarks—by a representative group of teachers.
- Teachers develop common assessments for all benchmarks.
- Teachers create a pacing guide for all teachers to follow.
- National mathematics experts provide feedback and help refine the “I Can” statements, common assessments, and pacing guides.
- The current curriculum (textbooks and other resources) is organized to assist teachers in teaching the benchmarks.
- Students are provided multiple opportunities to relearn and retest the benchmarks.
- Charts are posted on classroom walls to show each individual student’s progress on the benchmarks.
- Student grades are A, B, C or Incomplete. Students with an Incomplete are required to attend support sessions established by the school to make up their benchmarks.
- Students are recognized for their achievements in multiple ways. Success in math becomes as visible and as highly celebrated as success in athletics.
- Successful students are accelerated to move them toward a calculus track.
- Students are provided strategic practice tests with immediate feedback to prepare them for high-stake tests, such as state tests, the ACT and SAT.
- Teachers are provided with strategies on how to manage the benchmark system and use it to motivate students toward success. Administrators and math coaches are provided training on how to support teachers and students to achieve.

Results: Percentage of 10th grade students Proficient on State Math Tests

High School	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Wyandotte High – Kansas City, Kan.	7.3	10.2	29.0	41.3	49.0	56.0
Harmon High – Kansas City, Kan.	8.1	17.2	13.0	26.2	48.6	54.1
Washington High – Kansas City, Kan.	8.4	5.0	20.8	30.3	62.2	58.6
Schlagle High – Kansas City, Kan.	5.1	4.4	8.9	20.6	33.8	48.0