

Math Benchmarking

Description:

A success oriented math program that changes the belief systems of adults and students to one that sees **all** students 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 (benchmarks) by a representative group of teachers.
- Common assessments are developed by the teachers for all benchmarks.
- The 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 (textbook, other resources) is organized to assist teachers in the teaching of the benchmarks.
- Students are provided multiple opportunities to relearn, and retest the benchmarks.
- Charts are posted on classroom walls that 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 achievement 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. (State test, ACT, 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:

% Proficient on State Tests (10th grade)	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
Lee High – Houston, TX (11gr. Exit)	47.7	59.0	72.0
Artesia High – Los Angeles, CA (Exit)	32.6	43.2	50.0
Wyandotte High – Kansas City, KS	8.0	28.0	41.0
Harmon High – Kansas City, KS	11.0	16.0	27.0
Washington High – Kansas City, KS	5.0	22.0	41.0
Schlagel High – Kansas City, KS	3.0	12.0	26.0

This description is a slightly modified version of a math benchmarking overview developed by KCMSD teachers in August 2007 as they launched math benchmarking in the KCMSD. This document was developed from descriptions of math benchmarking provided by KCKPS teachers, math benchmarking experts, and using data from sites across the country.