

Math in Focus

Singapore Math

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CASE STUDY

Benton County, Ashland, Mississippi School District

School District Overview

Benton County School District is a rural district in Ashland, Mississippi with three secondary schools and two elementary schools. The district has a current enrollment of over 1,300 students in Grades K–12. The professional staff includes 186 teachers, with approximately 102 support personnel and administrators.

Benton County School District is eligible for Title I assistance. Ninety-eight percent of the students in the district are Black (52%) or Caucasian (46%), and the remaining 2% of students are identified as Hispanic. Fifteen percent of the students have an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

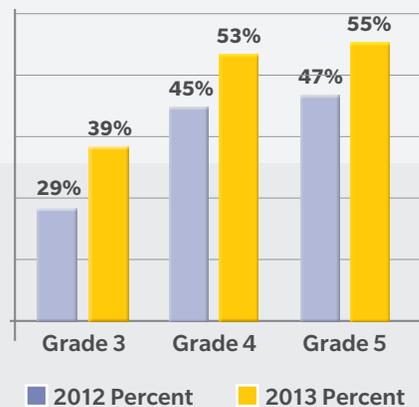
Mississippi Curriculum Test, Second Edition

The Mississippi Curriculum Test, second edition (MCT2) test is a multiple choice test taken by students in Grades 3–8, in the spring of the school year. The test consists of two subject areas Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics.

At Grades 3–5, the math MCT2 is comprised of items equally distributed across five domains, Numbers and Operations, Algebra, Geometry, Measurement and Data Analysis, and Probability.

Students' test scores are categorized into one of four levels of mastery including Level 1 (Advanced), Level 2 (Proficient), Level 3 (Basic), and Level 4 (Minimal). Students scoring at the Proficient or Advanced levels demonstrate solid academic performance and mastery of mathematics standards for Mississippi students.

FIGURE 1
Percent of Students Scoring Proficient/Advanced



Student Success with *Math in Focus*

To determine if *Math in Focus*® had an impact on learning, student MCT2 test scores from the Spring of 2012, prior to using the program, and the Spring of 2013, after the first year of usage were obtained for Grades 3, 4, and 5. These findings are presented in Figure 1.

The comparison of achievement scores revealed that at all grade levels examined, **the percentage of students scoring proficient or higher were greater in 2013, after using than the previous year with an average gain of over 9%.**

Conclusion

This one-year examination of the implementation of *Math in Focus* at Benton County School District revealed that the program was associated with increased mathematics achievement.