

Math in Focus

Singapore Math[®] by Marshall Cavendish



CASE STUDY

Kentwood, Michigan School District

School District Overview

Kentwood School District is a suburban district in Kentwood, Michigan. The district includes 11 elementary schools and six secondary schools and has a current enrollment of over 8,800 students in Grades Pre-K–12. The professional staff includes over 1,000 teachers, with approximately 630 support personnel and administrators.

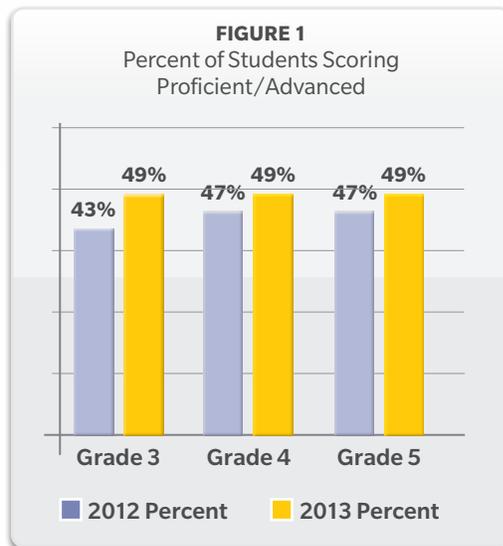
Kentwood Public School is eligible for Title I assistance. Seventy percent of the students in the district are Caucasian (40%) or Black (30%), and the remaining student body consists of students identified as Hispanic (12%), Asian (12%), or other (6%). Thirteen percent of the students have an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Michigan Educational Assessment Program

The Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) is a testing program administered by the state Department of Education through the 2013–2014 school year. Students at Grades 3–9 were administered a variety of tests which included the assessment of reading, mathematics, science, social studies, and writing.

At Grades 3–8, all students were expected to complete the MEAP for mathematics during the fall of the school year. These tests measure how well students acquired the skills and knowledge described in the state-adopted Mathematics Standards of Learning.

In Michigan, students' test scores can be categorized into one of four levels of mastery including Level 1 (Advanced), Level 2 (Proficient), Level 3 (Partially Proficient), and Level 4 (Not Proficient). Students scoring at the Proficient or Advanced levels demonstrate understanding and application of key grade level expectations defined for Michigan students.



Student Success with Math in Focus

To determine if *Math in Focus*[®] had an impact on learning, student MEAP mathematics test scores from the fall of 2012, prior to using the program, and the fall of 2013, after one year of use, 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 Math in Focus than the previous year with an average gain of over 4%.**

Conclusion

This one-year examination of the implementation of *Math in Focus* at Kentwood Public Schools revealed that the program was associated with increased mathematics achievement.