

Math in Focus

Singapore Math[®]
by Marshall Cavendish



CASE STUDY

Paxton Buckley, Illinois School District

School District Overview

Paxton Buckley School District is a suburban district in Paxton, Illinois. The district includes two elementary schools and two secondary schools with a current enrollment of over 1,400 students in Grades Pre-K–12. The professional staff includes 124 teachers, with approximately 16 support personnel and administrators.

Ninety-two percent of the students in Paxton Buckley school district are Caucasian and the remaining student body consists of students identified as Hispanic (5%) or other (3%). Fourteen percent of the students have an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

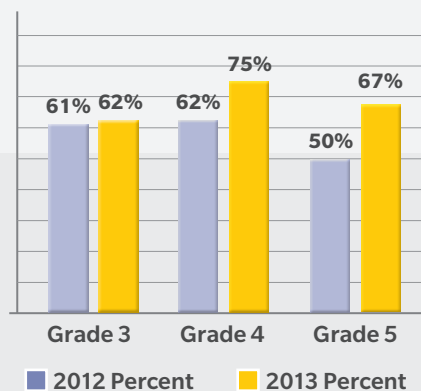
Illinois Standards Achievement Test

The Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) is a standardized test taken by all public school students, Grades 3–8, in the spring. The test includes assessments of reading, math, and science. The test measures how well students acquire the skills and knowledge described in state-adopted Standards of Learning. The results of the assessments are used by teachers and administrators to diagnose individual student strengths and weaknesses described in the state-adopted curriculum.

At Grades 3–5, the math ISAT is comprised of multiple choice, short-constructed response, and extended response items covering five domains including Geometry, Measurement and Data, Numbers and Operations in Base Ten, Number and Operations-Fractions, and Operations and Algebraic Thinking.

In Illinois, students' test scores can be categorized into one of four levels of mastery including Level 1 (Exceeds Standards), Level 2 (Meets Standards), Level 3 (Below Standards), and Level 4 (Academic Warning). Students scoring at the Meets Standards or Exceeds Standards levels are said to demonstrate understanding and application of key grade-level expectations defined for Illinois students.

FIGURE 1
Percent of Students Scoring Meets/Exceeds



Student Success with *Math in Focus*

To determine if *Math in Focus*[®] had an impact on learning, student ISAT mathematics test scores from the Spring of 2013 (prior to using the program) and the Spring of 2014 (after one 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 2014, after using *Math in Focus*, than the previous year with an average gain of over 11%.**

Conclusion

This one-year examination of the implementation of *Math in Focus*[®] at Paxton Buckley Community School District revealed that the program was associated with increased mathematics achievement.