

Creating Coherence in Math Instruction Across the Fifth Largest District in California

Creating a common language and common frameworks around mathematics instruction at a school district that comprises 68 schools, almost 63,000 students, and over 3,000 teachers is no small task. But the math department at Elk Grove Unified School District in northern California have taken on that task and they are seeing positive results.

"To see that students are consistently performing ... is hopeful for us as we continue to progress and students continue to experience math in a new way," said K-6 Mathematics Program Specialist, Kamarie Cadeaux.

"I had one teacher reach out and say, 'Oh my gosh, look what happened!' We were hearing things like that, and that was very exciting."

TARA MCCARTNEY
CURRICULUM AND PROFESSIONAL
LEARNING COORDINATOR

Kamarie, along with Curriculum and Professional Learning Coordinator Tara McCartney and their math team at the district, wanted to create a more equitable math experience for the students in the district to ensure that they all received the same high-quality instruction, regardless of what school, grade, or classroom they were in. And the way to provide that equity was to create coherence in the delivery of math instruction across the district through the creation of a research-based framework, the adoption of a high-quality, rigorous, standards-aligned K-12 math program, *enVision® Mathematics* by Savvas Learning Company, as their new, district-wide curriculum, and robust teacher support.

"We have worked really hard since the pandemic to unify the district and bring it together under common frameworks and common language," said Tara.

Matching a High-Quality Curriculum to High-Quality Instruction

In 2019, just before the pandemic, the math team received word that the district was about to embark on a new K-6 math adoption, which meant that all teachers of math in those grades across 43 elementary schools would be using the same teaching materials — a major step toward achieving common languages and frameworks in math instruction.

Highlights

- 43 elementary teachers were tasked with reviewing the programs being considered for adoption.
- Two programs were piloted by nearly 100 teachers over the 2021-22 school year.
- The district math department put together multiple opportunities for training and support for teachers.



SNAPSHOT



District

Elk Grove Unified
School District



Location

Elk Grove, CA



Grades

TK-12



Student Enrollment

62,957



Student Population

Asian:	29%
Hispanic or Latino:	28%
White:	16%
African American:	10%
Multiple or no response:	6%
Filipino:	6%
Pacific Islander:	2%
American Indian:	<1%



Teachers

3000+

Tara enlisted 43 elementary teachers to be part of the committee tasked with reviewing the programs being considered for adoption. The new framework for high-quality math instruction had just been finalized, so the adoption committee was able to use that to create a rubric to guide their decision. They narrowed it down to two, which were piloted by nearly one hundred teachers over the 2021–22 school year. After many conversations and a lot of research, they chose *enVision Mathematics* to be their core math curriculum.

"*enVision* is a wonderful support for our instructional framework because we can find all of those supports for our instructional framework in the program," said Kamarie.



The district was also able to purchase *Savvas Momentum™ Math* for its screener and diagnostic tool, as well as *SuccessMaker® Math* to provide supplementary intervention or enrichment learning opportunities for students.

SuccessMaker personalizes and differentiates learning for every student and provides educators with

real-time insights on student mastery and growth. Powered by adaptive technology, the program automatically gives each student just the right targeted scaffolding, feedback, or additional instruction, right when they need it.

"I can use *enVision* for daily instruction," said Cheryl, the fourth-grade teacher.

"*SuccessMaker* uses the diagnostic and the screener information from *Momentum Math* to place a student in an individualized program where they will then complete work at their own level and at their own pace. Each piece has its own place in the curriculum."

Seeing Growth in Math Performance

"I've seen students gain as much as a month's worth of instruction in filling gaps, and since last year when we formally adopted the program."

CHERYL
FOURTH GRADE TEACHER

Tara had expected to see an "implementation dip" in scores after that first year with *enVision*, since new program implementations can tend to slow down teacher pacing as they get to know all the new material. But to her surprise, scores stayed the same and, in some cases, increased.

"I had one teacher reach out and say, 'Oh my gosh, look what happened!'" said Tara. "We were hearing things like that, and that was very exciting."

Fourth grade teacher, Cheryl, said that her class has been on track for the first four weeks of the new 2024–25 school year and that since they took the initial diagnostic with *Momentum Math*, and working on *SuccessMaker* three times a week, there's already been an improvement in student understanding of concepts.

"I've seen students gain as much as a month's worth of instruction in filling gaps, and since last year when we formally adopted the program," she said.

Kamarie said one of the biggest successes of this new implementation is that the teachers are feeling more comfortable and confident with utilizing all of the steps in a program. And that excitement is translating over to the students.

"Teachers are coming back and saying, 'Oh, my kids are loving this. This is so much fun!'" Kamarie said. "That excitement both on the teacher end and the student end has been huge."

To learn more about Elk Grove's success, scan the QR code to read the full story.



For additional information about the Savvas suite of mathematics solutions for California, contact your local account manager today.

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