

Program Review



Anchorage School District



In order for ASD's current math practices to be more effective, the team suggests the district improve its professional development for staff and communication with both staff and parents.

“Much of what needs to happen here involves the district's ability to support the program it has. If the district can't support its programs, a new one won't help.”

—Michael Casserly,
executive director of CGCS

Review a summary of the report at
www.asdk12.org/depts/math.

Suggestions are also welcome through the online comment box.

K-8 Math Review

ASD has heard concerns regarding its K-8 math program. For those reasons, the district asked for a review of its program from an external group of educators.

The review was conducted by a team made up of members from the Council of the Great City Schools, a coalition of the nation's largest urban school districts. During the team's investigation, it interviewed nearly 100 people, including parents and staff, and reviewed more than 650 surveys. The team also analyzed a significant amount of student data.

In June 2011, the review team provided a report that laid out its recommendations on improving K-8 math achievement in the district. The full report can be read at www.asdk12.org/depts/math.

Results

The team's report outlined a number of successes with the current math programs as well as areas of weakness that need improvement. The team recommended the district keep the current Everyday Math and MathScope programs to support implementation of the math curriculum.

Areas of improvement

The report included 77 recommendations for the district to improve its K-8 math program. The suggestions fall into three main areas of improvement:

1. Professional development for staff
2. Curriculum
3. Communication with staff and parents

What's next

The district will present a plan to the school board on August 22, 2011 that will outline ways to remedy the concerns and implementation issues addressed in the report. Ultimately, it is up to the board whether to continue the current math program. If the board chooses to change the current math program, it would take up to two years to select, purchase and implement a new program.

Regardless of the board's decision, the **current math program will be used for the 2011-12 school year**. In that time, the district must continue to address the needs of students and staff and focus on math achievement.