

EverydayMathematics® Success Stories



Committed To Excellence in Glendale Unified

Located against the dramatic backdrop of the Verdugo Mountains, Glendale is the third largest city in Los Angeles County with a population of roughly 200,000. Once known as a “bedroom” suburb, the city is now a leading financial, commercial, retail and motion picture animation center with a highly diverse population. About half of Glendale residents are foreign born, adding to the rich ethnic flavor of the area.

Schools in Glendale have a reputation of high performance, and the community is committed to the education of its youth.

The Glendale Unified School District serves approximately 32,000 students in 20 elementary, 4 middle and 5 high schools. The Glendale Unified School District also encompasses the smaller

communities of La Crescenta and Montrose. The student population is 57% Caucasian, 22% Hispanic and 13% Asian-American. Thirty percent (30%) of the students are classified as English Learners, with Armenian, Spanish and Korean being the most commonly spoken native languages. District-wide, approximately 22% of Glendale students qualify for the free and reduced-price meal program.

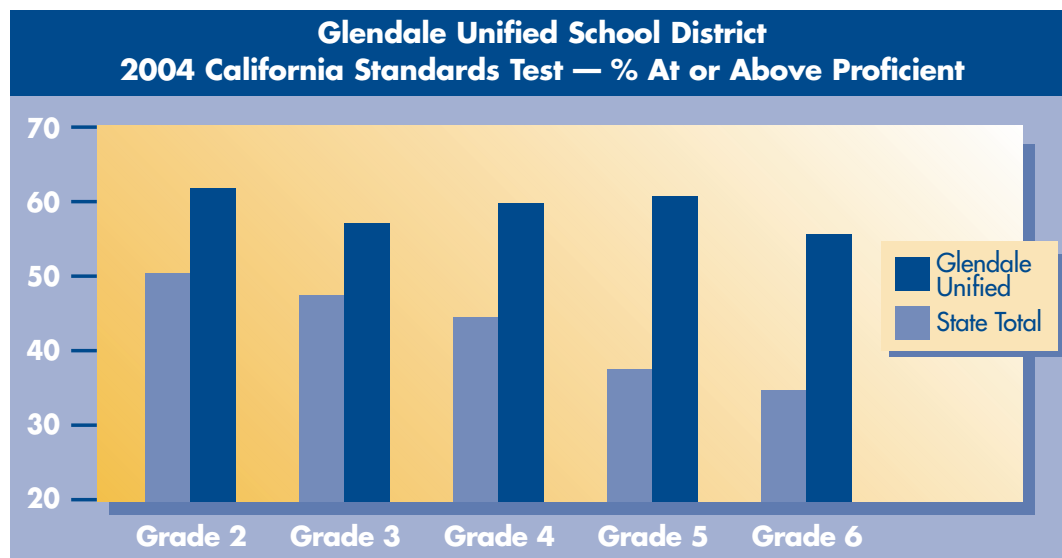
Long Experience with Everyday Mathematics

Beginning in the mid-1990s, the district undertook a two year search for a new elementary mathematics program. A Math Committee, comprised of K-12 teachers and representing all grades and student populations, developed a set of criteria for assessing new programs

before surveying any curriculum materials. The program had to align well with the performance standards, it had to be teacher friendly, and it had to be accessible to all students. Three programs were eventually selected for pilot testing in the elementary schools.

After the pilot tests, the teachers recommended that the choice be narrowed to two: *Everyday Mathematics* and a traditional program. In Glendale, the final selection of a curriculum is made by the Board of Education with the recommendation of the superintendent. The Board chose the *Everyday Mathematics* program.

The Glendale Unified School District implemented *Everyday Mathematics* in the 1997–1998 school year.



Results on the California Standards Test in Mathematics show a consistent rate of student performance at the Proficient and Advanced levels in Grades 2–6, surpassing the state average. The state trend indicates that student performance at the highest levels declines through the intermediate grades. Glendale USD is able to maintain and show continued growth against the state norm.

Staff Development

Ongoing professional staff development has accompanied the implementation of **Everyday Mathematics** since the decision was made to adopt the program. According to Bonnie Gould, Glendale's math specialist, a successful implementation of **Everyday Mathematics** requires a consistent effort on the part of district administrators and principals, working with teachers to help them teach the program. "**Everyday Mathematics** is a complex, well-built program containing strong mathematical content. Teachers in Glendale work to prepare **Everyday Mathematics** lessons and hands-on activities. Due to their efforts, the teachers are seeing results.

"The rigor of the mathematical content in **Everyday Mathematics** is so much more than what was traditionally expected. Teachers are surprised to see the level of mathematics at which elementary students are performing. Teachers too, often learn more mathematics while teaching with the **Everyday Mathematics** program."

Importance of Games

Ms. Gould notes that the games in **Everyday Mathematics** reinforce fundamental math skills, and that the games are the program's answer for reinforcement, drill and practice. In addition to their place as parts of the lessons, teachers in Glendale Unified use the **Everyday Mathematics** games in their classrooms to differentiate instruction with small groups or when students have some free time. Parents

are encouraged to explore the program by playing the games during family math nights.

Glendale Unified assists teachers with the implementation of the **Everyday Mathematics** games by regularly offering "make and takes" allowing teachers to create sets of games for their classrooms. Parents are also involved with "make and takes" for family math nights, and a group of parents recently volunteered to make up games for 280 families.

Intrinsic Mathematical Thinking

One of the student outcomes resulting from the **Everyday Mathematics** program is that mathematical thinking becomes intrinsic for the students. While children are challenged by the program, they are developing problem solving and higher-order thinking skills. Because **Everyday Mathematics** applies mathematical thinking to everyday situations, students recognize and appreciate how frequently mathematics intersects their lives.

California Standards Test Results

In 2002, the state of California initiated a new system of criterion-referenced exams, the California Standards Tests (CST), that align with challenging state standards. All elementary-level students in Grades 2–6 are assessed in Reading-Language Arts and Mathematics. Student performance at the Advanced and Proficient levels meets the guidelines for proficiency established by the No Child Left Behind Act.

The results of Glendale students on the California Standards Test clearly surpass the state averages. In Grade 3, 57% of Glendale students perform at the Advanced and Proficient levels, compared to 48% of all students in the state. In Grade 6, 56% of Glendale students are still achieving at the Advanced and Proficient levels while the statewide scores show a consistent decline through the grade levels, diminishing to only 35% at or above Proficient at the 6th grade level.

Ms. Gould believes the **Everyday Mathematics** curriculum has provided an essential foundation for strong student performance on the CST. "The content of **Everyday Mathematics** exceeds the California State Mathematics Standards at every grade level, so the students are learning more mathematics. The consistency of the spiral curriculum builds and reinforces the mathematical content, leading to a cumulative effect that is evidenced by strong student performance in Grades 4–6."

Glendale Unified believes in working towards excellence in the education of the community's children. "We are constantly raising our expectations for success," concludes Ms. Gould. "Our district goal is to be the best in the state of California."

For additional information on the **Everyday Mathematics** program, please contact us toll-free at 1-800-648-2970 and visit our Web site at www.WrightGroup.com.

Meeting All Expectations



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