

EverydayMathematics® Success Stories



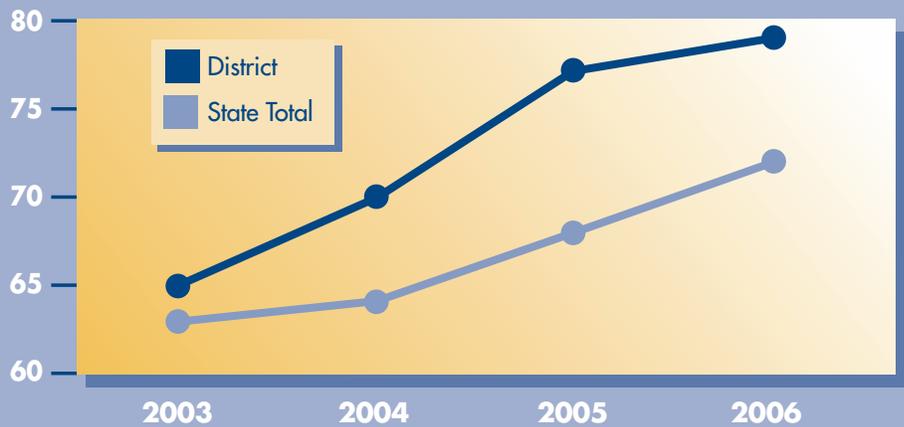
Raising Mathematics Performance in Citrus County Schools

The Citrus County School District serves a rural community located approximately 70 miles north of Tampa. The county is situated along the western coast of Florida and is known for its coastal wetlands, estuaries and lakes. Citrus County is a high performing school district that consistently ranks near the top on state measures of testing and accountability. In fact, the state of Florida ranked Citrus County as an “A” district for the 2005–2006 school year.

The Citrus County School District is considerably smaller than most other districts in Florida, and enrolls 16,500 students in Grades K-12. The district operates 10 elementary schools, 4 middle schools and 3 high schools. The student population is 87% Caucasian, 4% African-American and 4% Hispanic. About one-half of students in the elementary grades are eligible for the free and reduced-price meal program.

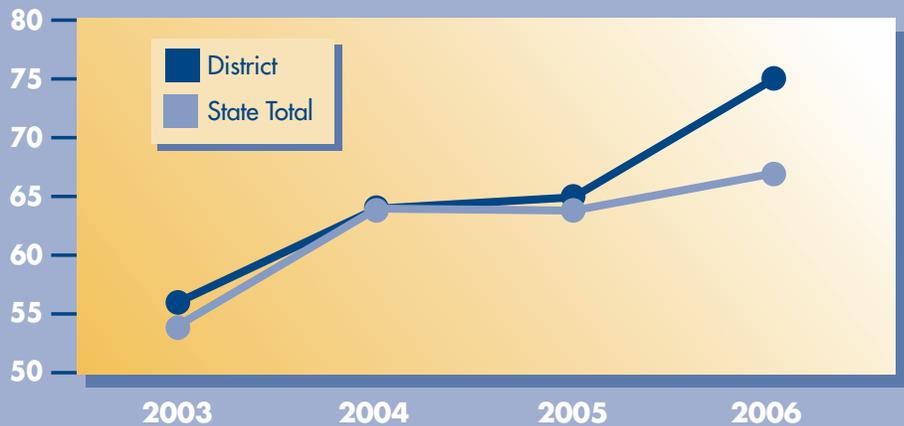
Until the most recent state math adoption, Citrus County Schools, like many other Florida districts, utilized site-based decisions regarding curriculum materials. This meant that committees at each school chose instructional materials with little coordination between other schools in the district. It was under such an arrangement that Floral City Elementary in the district had been using *Everyday Mathematics* since 1998.

**Citrus County School District
Grade 3 FCAT Mathematics % Met Standards**



In 2006 at Grade 3, 79% of Citrus County students met mathematics standards compared to 72% of the state total. The 2006 results represent a significant 14 percentage point increase over 2003 FCAT scores.

**Citrus County School District
Grade 4 FCAT Mathematics % Met Standards**



In Grade 4, 75% of students met the state standards in mathematics on the 2006 FCAT compared to 67% of the state total. In addition, Citrus County logged a 19 percentage point increase in the share of fourth graders who met mathematics standards since 2003.

District-wide Adoption

District leadership recognized the need to adopt one elementary math curriculum program heading into the 2003–2004 state adoption. A math committee was inaugurated and was comprised of curriculum specialists, teachers and administrators representing all 10 elementary schools. The committee would meet over the whole school year, ending with a decision on which elementary mathematics program to adopt.

The committee researched best practices, as well as national and state standards to develop a list of criteria to be used to evaluate each math program. The goal of the committee was to find a balanced approach to mathematics instruction, one that promoted math readiness skills while also developing conceptual understanding and problem-solving skills.

The committee thoroughly evaluated four elementary math programs. In the end, ***Everyday Mathematics*** was determined to be the best match to the committee's criteria. Members of the committee as well as the district administration felt that ***Everyday Mathematics*** rose to the top and would best meet the learning needs of Citrus County students.

The Citrus County School District fully implemented ***Everyday Mathematics*** in Grades K to 5 during the 2004–2005 school year.

Professional Development Plan

Progress Energy, a local utility company in Citrus County, provided grants to the district to provide professional development to all teachers in Grades K to 5. The focus of the professional development training was differentiating instruction to meet the learning needs of all students.

All teachers received training on ***Everyday Mathematics*** materials and how to teach a lesson as the new school year began. In addition, teachers from each elementary school came together as a committee to incorporate Florida's Sunshine State Standards into the elementary mathematics curriculum. The goal of the committee was to create meaningful learning experiences that teachers could use in their classrooms. The committee met periodically throughout the year, and committee members regularly returned to their school learning communities to share the committee's work and ideas.

Elementary and secondary math leaders in the district identified a need to keep the students progressing mathematically as they entered middle school, building on their positive experiences with ***Everyday Mathematics***. In order to familiarize middle school teachers with the routines and activities in ***Everyday Mathematics***, EM Games kits were ordered for each middle school and teachers were encouraged to use these techniques in their classrooms. Because

students learn more than one way to correctly solve a problem in ***Everyday Mathematics***, middle school teachers received training to review these alternative approaches.

Results

Soon, scores on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Tests (FCAT) began to rise in all schools. It was exciting for the district to see not only a big jump in test scores, but also to see the number of students who were moving to higher FCAT achievement levels and meeting state standards.

In Grade 3, 79% of students met the state standards in mathematics on the 2006 FCAT compared to 72% of the state total. In addition, Citrus County logged a 14 percentage point increase in the share of third graders who met mathematics standards since 2003.

In 2006 at Grade 4, 75% of Citrus County students met mathematics standards compared to 67% of the state total. The 2006 results represent a significant 19 percentage point increase over 2003 FCAT scores.

For additional information on the ***Everyday Mathematics*** program, please contact us toll-free at 1-800-382-7670 and visit our Web site at www.WrightGroup.com.

Meeting All Expectations