

Everyday Mathematics® Success Stories



Edina Public Schools Continues Long-Term Partnership with Everyday Mathematics

Edina Public Schools has a long-standing and well-earned reputation for academic excellence, and it has been consistently selected as one of the top school districts in the country. The community has demonstrated a strong commitment to the schools through ongoing support of excess levy and capital improvement referenda.

Edina is a suburban community made up of many professionals and is located southwest of Minneapolis. The district serves nearly 8,000 students in 6 elementary schools, 2 middle schools and 1 senior high school. Almost 1,000 students from the greater Minneapolis area are attending Edina schools through Open Enrollment or Enrollment Options provisions.

Edina Public Schools adopted *Kindergarten Everyday Mathematics* in the fall of 1989 and implemented the subsequent grade levels of *Everyday Mathematics* year by year as they were written, field-tested, and published. In fact, Edina Public Schools was one of the original 13 pilot development sites in the country to implement and field-test *Everyday Mathematics*. Among the first to receive training in this new mathematics curriculum from the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project was a cadre of teachers from Edina Public Schools.

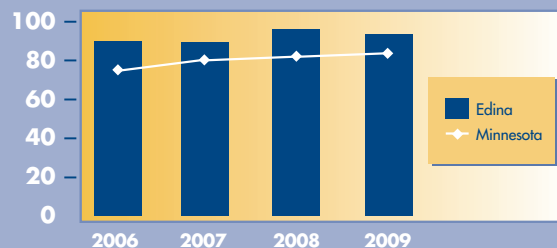
High Expectations

“This is a community that expects its students to have high mathematical skills,” states Dr. Jenni Norlin-Weaver, director of teaching and learning for Edina Public Schools. “With the long-term implementation of *Everyday Mathematics* in the elementary grades, we have been able to accelerate the academic development of most of our students in mathematics through the middle school and secondary levels. A Grade 6 teacher remarked that students who have followed the *Everyday Mathematics*

“It is our experience that the *Everyday Mathematics* curriculum has students performing about one year ahead of the traditional grade-level expectations.”

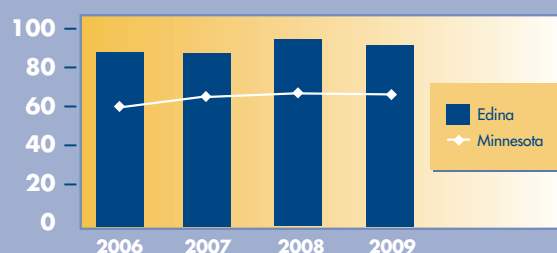
*Dr. Jenni Norlin-Weaver,
Director of Teaching and Learning*

Edina Public Schools MCA-II Grade 3 Mathematics
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Standards



At Grade 3, 82% were performing at mathematical achievement Levels III and IV.

Edina Public Schools MCA-II Grade 5 Mathematics
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Standards



At Grade 5, 85% were performing at mathematical achievement Levels III and IV.

“What I Learned in School This Year”

For the past several years, Edina Public Schools has collected student responses about what they learned in the past year. Many report that they have learned a lot about math.

“Multiplication can be fun. I passed addition and subtraction on my first try. They were a breeze ... Some people may think school is boring but it’s probably the best place to learn.”

— Aakib, Grade 3

“I learned math. I learned it on the computer, math sheets, math tests, math games, and math books. I had fun learning math. And I love school!”

— Brendan, Grade 2

“This year I learned that I can do things I thought I couldn’t. At first I thought I couldn’t add or subtract fractions but after I tried it once or twice, I did it.”

— Christine, Grade 5

“I learned a lot of division. It was GREAT! I also learned about fractions, that was GREAT too. I like learning about new things especially the things we’ve learned this year. I love school.”

— Sami, Grade 4

“Another thing I learned was learning fractions. In my old school, I didn’t learn fractions. It took me a while to figure out what to do and how to work with fractions. Fractions are fun. I don’t know how to live without teachers or math.”

— Ariel, Grade 4

curriculum are so much more able to think mathematically and in the abstract.” For many years, the high school Algebra I course has been the standard curriculum for Grade 8 students in the district.

“The most capable mathematics students are taking Algebra I in Grade 7 and Geometry in Grade 8,” reports Dr. Norlin-Weaver. “This expands the range and level of mathematics that these students can explore in high school tremendously. Parents value that level of mathematical capacity.”

Working Through Change

Throughout the district’s history with **Everyday Mathematics**, professional development has been a priority, particularly during periods of high teacher turnover. “With **Everyday Mathematics**, it is critical for teachers to know the philosophy of the program in order to be able to plan, deliver, and assess the lesson material,” states Dr. Norlin-Weaver.

The district maintains a high-quality mentoring program that was already in place for teachers new to Edina Public Schools. The mentoring program now focuses on content areas, such as mathematics, with the goal of guiding new teachers to proficiency in delivering the curriculum. The mentors facilitate this goal by visiting classrooms, observing teachers, and modeling lessons. While these efforts are costly, they are also critical in sustaining the traditions of excellence and leadership in Edina Public Schools.

Results

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA-IIIs) are part of the educational accountability system in

Minnesota. The MCA-IIIs are criterion-referenced tests that are aligned to Minnesota state learning standards. At the elementary level, mathematics is assessed at Grades 3 through 5. Results are reported according to five Achievement Levels and are used by teachers and administrators to make decisions about curriculum and instructional practices.

Since 1998, when the MCAs were first administered through the transition to the MCA-IIIs in 2006 and today, students in Edina Public Schools have consistently ranked at the top of the state in meeting or exceeding Achievement Level III in mathematics. (Achievement Levels III and IV on the MCA represent student work above the grade-level expectations set by the state.) The most recent 2009 MCA-IIIs results placed 82% of Grade 3 students at Level III or higher, while 85% of Grade 5 students scored at Level III or higher.

Dr. Norlin-Weaver sums it up:

“**Everyday Mathematics** provides an excellent foundation in mathematics and analytical thought processes for our students in Edina Public Schools. The students learn so much more mathematics than is traditionally expected. Our MCA scores, with so many students achieving above grade-level expectations, certainly prove this point.”

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

Expect More. Achieve More.