

# Everyday Mathematics® Success Stories



## More Oklahoma Students Scoring Advanced in Math with Everyday Mathematics®

The Norman Public Schools are recognized on the state and national level for exceptional teaching and instructional programs. Serving the third largest city in Oklahoma, the district attributes much of its success to the community's support and commitment to quality public education. Home to the University of Oklahoma, this community is focused on the educational process. The district serves nearly 14,000 students in 23 schools, and the student population is 75% Caucasian, 8% Native American, 7% African American, 6% Hispanic, 3% Asian, and 1% multicultural. More

than 40% of the students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.

Elementary math scores are on the rise in the Norman Public Schools, and teachers credit the increase to **Everyday Mathematics®** from Wright Group/McGraw-Hill. The district adopted the program in the fall of 2004 in Grades 1–5. Now **Everyday Mathematics** is used in Grades K–5.

The graph below details the dramatic improvement in academic achievement for Grade 5 math students. In 2003, Norman was using a different basal mathematics

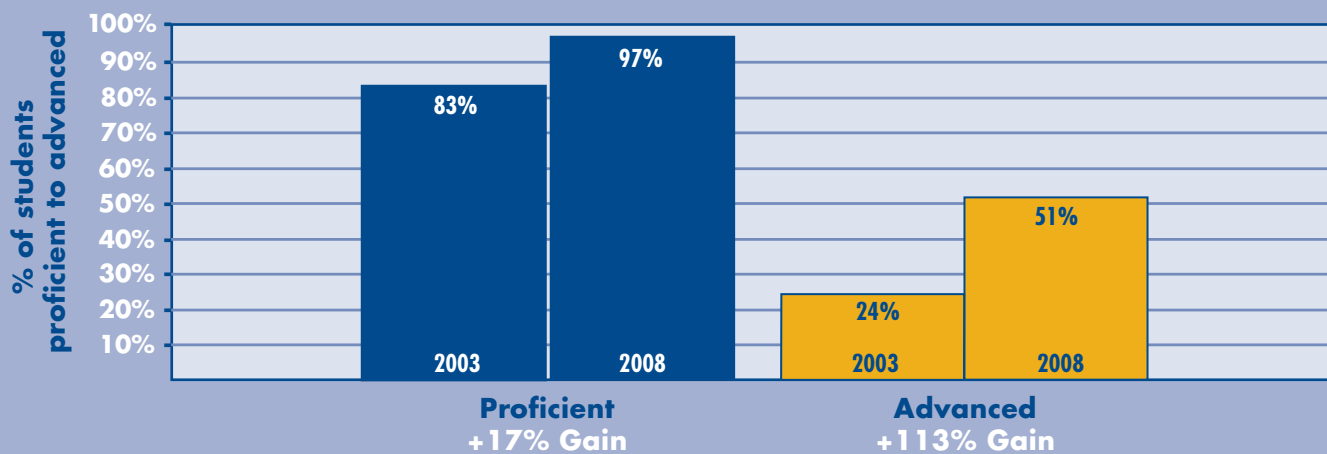
curriculum, and 83% of their Grade 5 students were scoring at a Proficient Level while only 24% were scoring at an Advanced Level. After four years with **Everyday Mathematics**, 97% of Norman's Grade 5 students are scoring at a Proficient Level and, more importantly, 51% are scoring at an Advanced Level, an improvement of 113%.

**Strong Math Skills in Elementary School Transfer to Middle and High School Success**

Nita Cochran, district math coordinator, said the district's goal is to continue

**Norman Public Schools Grade 5 Oklahoma Core Curriculum Math Test  
Grade 5 Students Scoring Proficient to Advanced 2003 - 2008**

Source: OCCT



increasing the percentage of elementary school children who score in the Advanced category because experience shows that those students do much better in math in middle school and high school.

**“Everyday Mathematics** is a research-based program that gives students the strong mathematical foundation they need as they grow older. More of our seventh- and eighth-graders are taking Algebra. Ninety-five percent of our ninth-graders passed the state-mandated Algebra I test in 2008, which was the highest percentage yet. That’s because those kids had experienced **Everyday Mathematics**,” she said.

**“Everyday Mathematics** is a research-based program that gives students the strong mathematical foundation they need as they grow older.”

*Nita Cochran*  
District Math Coordinator

Cochran said the program is helping the district exceed some of the state’s benchmarks. “Our Grade 4 students can successfully add negative integers, which is a Grade 7 benchmark,” she explained. “The reason is simple. **Everyday Mathematics** introduces the number line in Kindergarten. Even our

Kindergartners ask about negative numbers because they see them on the number line.”

**“Everyday Mathematics** has added excitement to our town. People talk about math now.”

*Nita Cochran*  
District Math Coordinator

### Special Education Students Makes Gains

Special education students at Norman Public Schools also perform well with **Everyday Mathematics**. As students are exposed to the program over time, the percentage scoring Proficient or Advanced on the OCCT continues to climb.

The graph below indicates that in 2006, 55% of Norman’s Grade 5 special education students were scoring at a Proficient Level and only 12% were scoring at an Advanced Level. By 2008, 87% of their special education students were ranked Proficient and 26% were ranked Advanced, improvements of 58% and 117% respectively.

### Staff Development is Key

Cochran said one reason the program has worked so well in the district is because of staff development. “Many

elementary school teachers don’t receive enough training in math during college, but **Everyday Mathematics** and the program’s trainers get them up to speed. The trainers have all taught the program for at least three years before becoming trainers, so our teachers really respond well to them. Our teachers feel comfortable asking specific questions about what issues they see in the classroom, and the trainers offer practical answers based on their personal experiences.”

Teachers say **Everyday Mathematics** has deepened their students’ knowledge of math and credit the program with an impact felt throughout the community. **“Everyday Mathematics** has added excitement to our town. People talk about math now, and I never thought that would happen. Football is big in Norman, and I’ve heard kids making up number games with their parents during football games. I never thought I’d hear kids talking about numbers in public!”

For additional information on the **Everyday Mathematics** program, please contact us toll-free at 1-800-648-2970 and visit [WrightGroup.com](http://WrightGroup.com).

**Expect More. Achieve More.**

