

EverydayMathematics® Success Stories

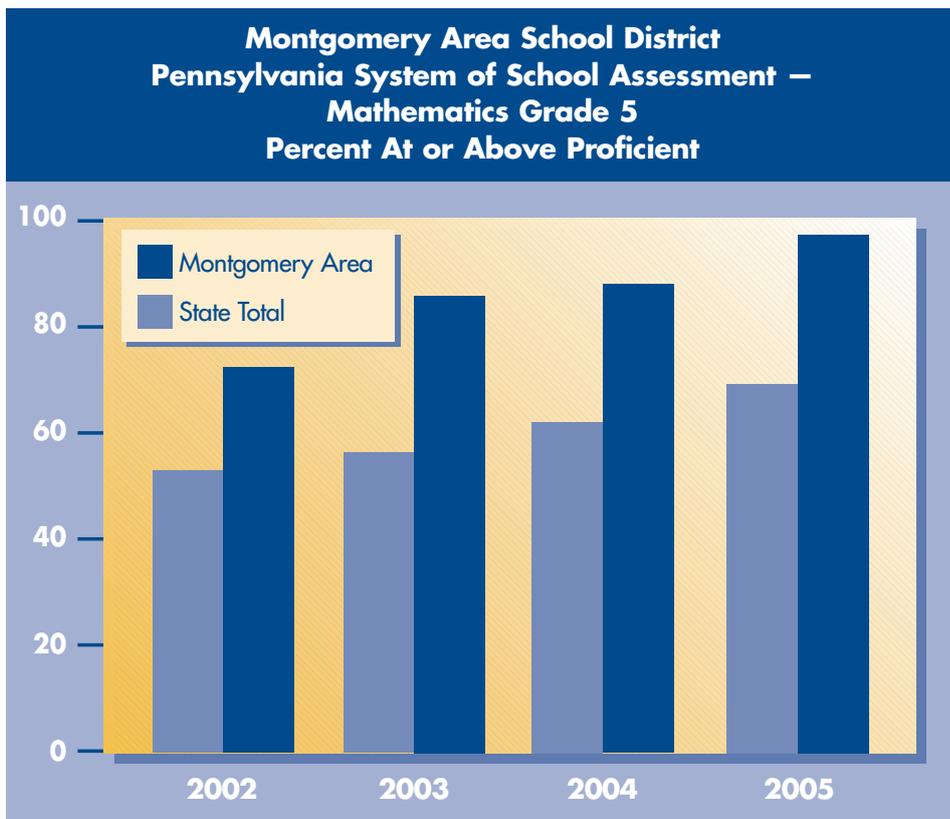
PENNSYLVANIA

No Child Left Behind in Montgomery Area School District

The Montgomery Area School District, situated outside of Williamsport in central Pennsylvania, serves Montgomery Borough and three townships with a total population of 7,500. This rural area falls within the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. The Montgomery Area School District educates nearly 1,000 students in one building that houses elementary, middle and high school students and a satellite elementary building. In this mostly blue-collar community, approximately 33% of the students are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals.

As is often the case in a rural setting, the community strongly supports and participates in its children's education, and in turn the schools play an important role in the social life of the community. School athletic events attract large numbers of enthusiastic supporters. Parents and community members respect and value the educators and schools in the Montgomery Area School District.

Since the district first implemented **Everyday Mathematics** in Grades K-5 in 1997, teachers have taken ownership of the program and are committed to it. The Montgomery Area School District has become a role model for how to accomplish great advances in elementary mathematics instruction using **Everyday Mathematics**.



In 2005, 96.8% of Grade 5 students in Montgomery Area schools, including special education students, demonstrated proficiency on the math portion of the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), compared to 69% statewide.

Formula for Success

Math is a high priority in the district reports Superintendent Daphne Ross. Teachers devote 70 to 90 minutes to math instruction at all grade levels each day.

All students in Montgomery Area schools, including special education, learn with the **Everyday Mathematics** program.

“The nature of **Everyday Mathematics** has led our district to great results,” Ross said. “Teachers have embraced the program and students love math classes.”

According to Director of Curriculum & Instruction Linda Gutkowski, the combination of an excellent mathematics curriculum and excellent instructional practices, developed through good teacher training, has led to the success achieved in mathematics by the Montgomery Area schools. In addition, Gutkowski notes that teachers use all of the components and features of *Everyday Mathematics* in their instruction. "The games in *Everyday Mathematics* are so important in reinforcing basic facts and fostering automaticity. The children have fun learning while they also develop a positive attitude towards mathematics."

"With 97% of Grade 5 students, including special education, scoring proficient and above in mathematics on the PSSA in 2005, the Montgomery Area School District demonstrates that the goals of No Child Left Behind are achievable. All children can learn and be proficient in mathematics."

Daphne Ross, Superintendent

Ongoing Assessment and Differentiating Instruction

"One key to the success of *Everyday Mathematics* in Montgomery Area schools is the ongoing assessment that is built into the program," states Karen Snyder, principal of the district's elementary schools. Teachers use informal assessments to note where students are making adequate progress and where more review is needed. These informal assessments, along with a good

data collection system, help teachers to individualize and differentiate instruction.

The ongoing assessment in *Everyday Mathematics* also is used to help identify those students who would benefit from remediation either before or after school. Program materials from *Everyday Mathematics* are used before and after school so that the children are reviewing the same skills that they learned in class.

Success on the PSSA

Since 1996, the State of Pennsylvania has tested students at Grade 5 in mathematics and reading with the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA). Over the years, many changes have occurred in Pennsylvania with respect to standards, assessment and reporting of assessment. In 2001, the state created a reporting system for the PSSA based upon Mathematics Performance Levels that aligns with the goals of No Child Left Behind: every student is to be at least proficient.

In 2005, 96.8% of the district's Grade 5 students demonstrated proficiency on the math portion of the PSSA, compared to 69% statewide. The level of performance above proficiency is particularly noteworthy. Among Montgomery Area students, 73.4% scored at the Advanced level on the Grade 5 PSSA in math compared to just 38.1% in the state.

With the strong foundation in mathematics that students receive in elementary school with *Everyday*

Mathematics, the district now reports increased PSSA math scores in middle school and high school. In 2005 at Grade 8, 83.0% of Montgomery Area students demonstrated proficiency in mathematics on the PSSA compared to 62.9% of the state total. At Grade 11, 77.5% of Montgomery Area students scored at the advanced and proficient levels in math, versus 50.9% of the state total.

Special Education Students

The Montgomery Area School Districts employs a full inclusionary approach with students in special education, and 16% of the district's students are identified as special education students. In Pennsylvania, all students, except the severely disabled, must take the PSSA on grade-level. According to Principal Snyder, special education students benefit from the repeated exposure of mathematical concepts and skills practice in the *Everyday Mathematics* curriculum. The program also encourages all students to problem solve creatively.

Snyder reports, "Our parents are thrilled and proud to see what their children are accomplishing in elementary school. Parents in our community value education and appreciate more opportunities for their children to achieve academically."

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.

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