

Everyday Mathematics® Success Stories



District-wide Success in Hamilton County Schools

As a result of the consolidation of the Chattanooga City Schools with the surrounding county school system in 1997, Hamilton County Schools serves both urban and suburban student populations. The district educates over 41,000 students in Grades Pre-K–12 with 49 elementary schools, 17 middle schools, and 15 high schools. The district also operates several magnet schools spanning the traditional grade levels, where the curriculum is built around a focused theme. Within the diverse student population, 46% of the students qualify for the free or reduced-price meal program.

State Assessment

The Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) Achievement Test is a state-mandated exam administered to all students in

Grades 3–8 that tests basic skills and content application in reading, language, math, science, and social studies. The TCAP testing program includes the nationally norm-referenced TerraNova CTBS™ test and additional state-specific, criterion-referenced items. In Hamilton County Schools, all students, including special education students, take the TCAP in Grades 1–8.

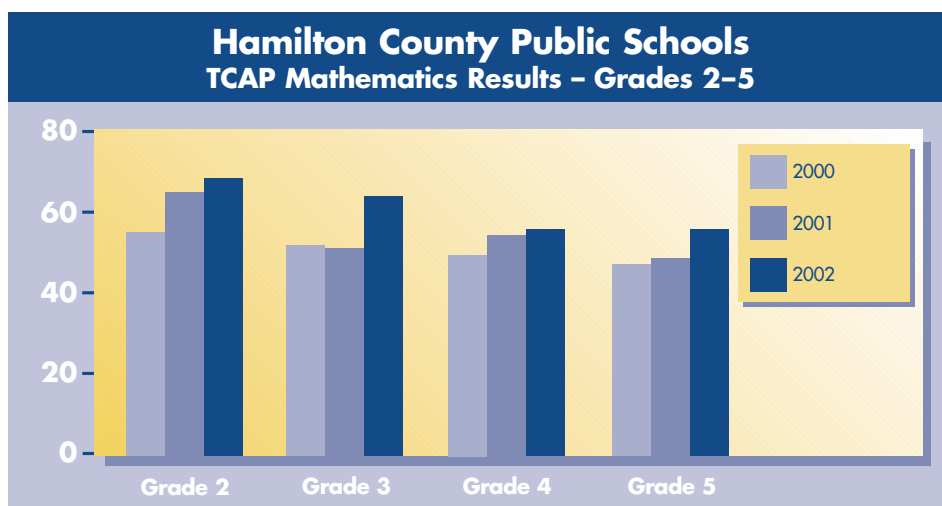
The latest TCAP Mathematics results from the 2001–2002 school year show an encouraging trend: the highest scores in the history of the merged school system.

Mathematics scores showed an increase at every elementary grade level and were also above the national average in Grades 1–5. In the crucial early grades, the average student score was at the 60th national percentile or higher.

“Across the district, and in our under-performing schools, we are closing the achievement gap while improving achievement,” states Ava Warren, NSF project co-director for the Hamilton County Schools.

Cornerstone of Success

Beginning with the implementation of *Everyday Mathematics* during the 1999–2000 school year, staff development has been a cornerstone of the success achieved by Hamilton County Schools. The professional development model in Hamilton County Schools encompasses several levels of staff development, from the initial training of teachers new to the program to more intensive leadership academies and *Everyday Mathematics* consultant training. “We encourage and support our



In 2002, TCAP Mathematics results in Grades 2–5 reached their highest levels in the history of the merged school system.

teachers' professional growth and facilitate their move to the next level," reports Warren.

Ongoing in-service training and year-round new teacher training are additional staff development initiatives in Hamilton County Schools. According to Warren, these continuous training efforts support teachers who are hired very close to the beginning of the school year or who come to Hamilton County Schools during the school year. This year-round training effectively addresses the reality of teacher turnover in a large school system.

Elementary school principals also receive professional development training in **Everyday Mathematics**. "It's important for the principals to be able to communicate about **Everyday Mathematics**, especially with parents and in community meetings," notes Warren. Administrators are also participating in mathematics professional development through the Lenses on Learning program, begun in 2002.

Community Support

Many sectors of the Chattanooga community strongly support mathematics education in the district.

"The children absolutely love learning with **Everyday Mathematics**. Parents remark how much more mathematics that their children understand."

*Ava Warren,
NSF Project Co-Director*

At Chattanooga State Technical Community College, a local college that trains many teachers going into the Hamilton County Schools, the mathematics methods course presents the **Everyday Mathematics** curriculum. A summer grant program is available for college students to research the foundations of the **Everyday Mathematics** curriculum.

In addition, the Hamilton County Coalition for Mathematics and Science Excellence acts as a liaison with the community in facilitating partnership and cooperation toward educational excellence in math and science. This 28-member organization, formed in 2000, consists of volunteers from businesses, industries, and higher education as well as teachers and parents. A current initiative of the Math and Science Coalition focuses on preparing students for post-secondary education, for entering the 21st century workplace, and for becoming informed,

productive, and contributing members of the community. The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department also supports **Everyday Mathematics** in the summer day camp program. Summer camp counselors receive training on how to use **Everyday Mathematics** games with the children, practicing and reinforcing the mathematics they have learned during the school year. The use of the games in **Everyday Mathematics** represents the first academic offering in Hamilton County's summer day camp program.

"Our results represent a district-wide success story — one in which everyone contributed, including the central office administration, the school board, teachers, and principals," says Warren. "We are working together to offer a coherent vision of mathematics education in the district."

For additional information on SRA/McGraw-Hill's **Everyday Mathematics** program, please contact us toll-free at 1-888-SRA-4543 and visit our Web site at www.sra4kids.com.

Meeting All Expectations