

eMATHinstruction

Teaching Math Just got a Whole Lot Easier.

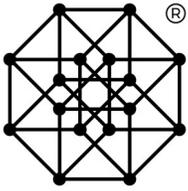
eMathInstruction was created to provide curriculum that aligns well with the Common Core State Standards while at the same time giving teachers the ability to build around the curriculum we create to suit the needs of their individual schools and unique sets of students. We are grateful for the thoughtful review of our Common Core Algebra I, Common Core Geometry, and Common Core Algebra II courses by the team of experts at *EdReports*.

We believe their analysis of our Focus and Coherence, where we met expectations, shows that our curriculum is well aligned with the Common Core Math Standards. The review shows that teachers and administrators can have confidence that our materials provide a backbone curriculum that covers all of the relevant standards for a particular course in a way that builds meaningful connections between the topics of that course. This coverage allows students to explore the rich ideas within each course by using their knowledge to model a wide variety of problems. Both the lessons and homework sets encourage students to become fluent in the important skills of a given course while more complex problems build their reasoning and modeling abilities.

We also appreciate the work that the *EdReports* reviewers did concerning our alignment to the Rigor and Mathematical Practices. Although we fell short on this part of the evaluation, only partially meeting expectations, we do feel that our materials adhere to the majority of the mathematical practices upon which this portion of the evaluation rests. Our materials strive for conceptual understanding and having this conceptual understanding underlie procedural fluency. We rarely have students learn the “how” before the “why” by structuring introductory exercises to emphasize essential questions and concepts.

One of the areas where the review points out that our curriculum falls short is in the intentional development of overarching, mathematical practices (MP1 and MP6). On this criterion, the reviewers at *EdReports* state “throughout the series, the materials intentionally develop MP1 to the full extent of the practice standard. However, the materials do not intentionally develop MP 6 to the full intent of the practice standard.” We are pleased that the reviewers found that we fully developed MP 1 (Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them). We believe that students making sense of the world around them using appropriate mathematics and then working on problems until they can find a correct solution is the most critical aspect of the various mathematical practices.

We would agree with the *EdReport* analysis that our program fell short on MP6 (Attend to precision). They point out that our curriculum does not do enough to allow students to choose scales on graphs, appropriate units, or appropriate rounding. The review points out instances where our curriculum provides too much guidance in the modeling process, one example being when we supply the variables to be used in modeling. We believe that these criticisms are accurate, but also believe that a curriculum must be wise about the amount of time it spends on mathematics that are central to the problem at hand versus those that are peripheral. Each of our courses was written by public school teachers with decades of classroom experience in each course. As all classroom teachers know, precious time can be used up debating the best scale to use on an axis or the best variable to use in a problem when that time could be better spent on the math that is most critical to the scenario at hand. We feel that our materials find this balance in order to optimize the time spent in class.



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We do believe, though, that our curriculum could be enhanced based on not only this particular shortcoming, but others that *EdReports* found in our work. At eMathInstruction, we have always believed that there is no perfect curriculum, no set of materials that will work for every teacher much less for every student. And, more than that, we believe that no curriculum is perfect upon first creation. One of the features that teachers like the most about our courses is their ever-evolving nature. It is our plan at eMathInstruction to fully embrace the shortcomings that the reviewers at *EdReports* found in our materials and make them better based on their evaluation. Because of the nature of our online materials, this type of evolution can and will happen in real time.

One of our greatest regrets about this review process was that our usability was not evaluated and rated by *EdReports*. This was due to our materials only partially meeting expectations in the Rigor and Mathematical Practices Gateway. We respect the *EdReports* process but believe that had they reviewed our usability, it would have rated very highly. We take special care at eMathInstruction to ensure that our materials are easy to use, both for the student and the teacher. Because of the extensive classroom experience of our writers, our materials consider the various structural elements of a teacher's school day and school year in its design.

Each of our courses consists of around 100 lessons with accompanying homework sets. These lessons have ample space for students to work, take notes, and mathematically model problems. The lessons and homework sets, as reviewed in the Focus and Coherence Gateway, ensure coverage of the math content standards of the Common Core for the particular course. We then supply additional lessons, activities, reviews, and assessments. These extra resources give teachers the flexibility to supplement the backbone curriculum in ways that their specific classrooms demand. Our curriculum is not overly prescriptive, nor does it overly rely on technology that might be hard to attain in certain circumstances. Although we would love for all students to have easy access to online devices, our essential curriculum does not assume this and relies mostly on rich mathematical discussion of worthy problems.

On a final note, we are especially proud of how well our curriculum has been suited to distance learning in these especially challenging times. With each of our lessons, we have a freely accessible lesson video that works through each and every problem within the lesson. We originally designed these videos to help schools remediate students who had been absent from school. But, they have been used extensively for flipped classroom learning, individual math lab learning, and mass remote learning during extended school closures. From the period March 15, 2020 to May 1, 2020, the videos for our courses have been freely viewed over 700,000 times.

eMathInstruction is honored to have met the expectations of the Focus and Coherence portion of the *EdReports* review. We look forward to enhancing our curriculum to make it stronger and better adhere to the Rigor and Mathematical Practices of the Common Core Standards. We appreciate the thoughtful and thorough review given to our material by *EdReports*. Our curriculum has worked well for many schools and students around the country. We look forward to strengthening our material in the near future using the feedback we have gained through the *EdReports* review process.