

## Background Information



### About Leap Educational Consulting

Leap Education is a standards-aligned math curriculum implementation and instructional leadership coaching company. We are a team of instructional leaders (math teacher leaders, principals, and superintendents) focused on person and performance. Leap works with over 50 schools across 20 states, impacting over 25,000 students to achieve their math goals.

Leap aims to deliver on the promise of equal educational opportunity for all of America's children. Leap's mission is to empower stakeholders to accelerate their impact and provide schools with essential resources to create academic programs that ensure access, equity, and drive sustainable academic outcomes for all students, specifically those in historically underserved communities. The students we serve have proven that zip code does not determine academic ability. Leap partners with charter schools/networks and traditional district schools in order to share what we know about building high-achieving schools that help low-income students succeed. We positively impact students by providing our partners with open source resources, instructional leadership and teacher coaching, and curriculum implementation support.

### Developing the Curriculum

The Leap Math Curriculum was created through vast amounts of research and many rounds of feedback and input. We would like to particularly thank the Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas for their support with design work and thorough review of the curriculum to ensure alignment to the standards. Additionally, thank you to the Achievement Network for partnering with us to create our assessments. Lastly, our curriculum was vetted by a cohort of master teachers, network math leaders, curriculum fellows, principals and principal supervisors. They evaluated the curriculum and gave cyclical feedback over several years' time to allow for effective curriculum implementation at their schools.

The Leap materials include several components that support maximum levels of student engagement and conceptual understanding. Unit plans include extensive content knowledge. Daily lesson plans are written in a narrative style so teachers can read and visualize what is happening in the classroom. Independent practice offers an assortment of problems to provide access points to students who need support or extension. Teachers can differentiate the independent practice based on student performance in the moment. The goal is for students to develop the conceptual understanding to use math flexibly in any context and to both explain their thinking and understand the thinking of their

peers. These strategies will carry them through their mathematics education beyond their elementary and middle school years.

The Leap curriculum aims to see mathematical practices come to life through embedding the shifts ([focus, coherence, rigor](#)) called for by the standards. In elementary school, we structured our math program into three main daily components: Core Math Lesson, Math Stories, and Math Practice. Additionally, students engage in Math Cumulative Review in order for students to achieve the fluency and procedural skills required. In middle school, we structure our math program into two main daily components: Core Math Lesson and Math Cumulative Review. The Core Math Lessons are divided into three structural lesson types: Conjecture-Based Lesson, Exercise-Based Lesson, and Error Analysis Lesson. On most days, students will be engaging in EITHER a Conjecture-Based or Exercise-Based Lesson during Core Math instruction. The Math Cumulative Review block has three sub-components (i.e., structures) available: Skill Fluency, Mixed Practice, and Problem of the Day.

Leap offers supplemental materials to schools as well. In addition to materials and resources for the Math Cumulative Review block, these supplemental materials include teacher guides and manuals, unit guides, lesson plans, student workbooks, practice workbooks, assessments, and answer keys.

## **Evidence of Efficacy**

Leap provides intensive coaching and tools that enable district and charter schools to effectively implement Leap's curriculum. We are socially responsive and have years of experience working in underserved communities. And, we care deeply about the communities we serve.

On average, most of our partners saw double digit growth in proficiency percentage year over year. What is our secret sauce? We have a proven, research-backed formula for teaching and leading math that we call an Arc of the Year. The Arc of the Year allows leaders and teachers to focus on specific portions of their math program as the year progresses.

The goal of Leap is twofold: 1) increase student achievement and 2) build capacity by further developing instructional leaders' skills to support implementation.

## **Implementation Support**

The person leading the implementation at the school, network, or district-level receives weekly one-on-one coaching support to adapt the program to the needs of their district or school context, including support with assessment, data analysis and response, and working to support the needs of all learners.

We guide leaders in their journey to drive math student achievement by building teacher and student skills and knowledge, focusing on conceptual understanding and problem solving. Leap's year-long coaching supports school leaders and teachers in further developing the skills and practices needed to

implement the curriculum and drive results in the first year of implementation. Most partners return for a second year of support to build on the momentum of the first year and elevate their skills. [Here](#) are a few comments from some of our partners as they reflected on their experience with Leap.

Partnership with Leap Offers:

- Deep instructional coaching and implementation support with a virtual summer kick-off training, turnkey materials for teacher training, weekly coaching calls, recurring in-person or virtual site visits from your Leap coach, interim assessments, and support with data analysis.
- Access to a national community of practice also implementing Leap curriculum and instructional practices.

For more information on the program, please visit: [Leap Educational Consulting](#)

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