Publisher Response

Leap Mathematics K-8

We are grateful to the EdReports Team for their thorough and overall positive review of the Leap Mathematics K-8. The review identifies many of the strengths of the curriculum. As a result of these strengths, the curriculum has earned the distinction of "Meets Expectations" for Gateways 1, 2, and 3, with all possible points earned in all gateways for grades K-1 and all but one point earned for grades 2-8. This distinguishes the curriculum as one of the top 3 elementary and top 15 middle school math curricula for Focus & Coherence, Rigor & Balance, and Usability reviewed by EdReports to date.

Leap Mathematics K-8 is the result of many years of research and hard work by teachers, leaders, and our partner schools. The curriculum was originally drafted with input from experts, including the math team at the Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas in 2014. It has since undergone many rounds of revisions based on teacher, leader, and partners of our curriculum implementation support program feedback as well as input from instructional experts including those at the UT Dana Center. We believe that the high scores in Gateways 1, 2, and 3 by EdReports are reflective of all of these efforts.

On average, schools that use and receive implementation support from our expert instructional coaches grew 12% in proficiency year over year on their math state assessments. While we believe that the review in conjunction with student achievement data from the Achievement First Network and our partner schools verifies that the program overall is strong, we are already in the process of making the materials even stronger and more accessible through our open source portal on our website and making the teacher guides and manuals, unit guides, lesson plans, student workbooks, practice workbooks, assessments, and answer keys available in hard copy.

Strengths Identified by the Reports

Focus

The EdReports Review found that the instructional materials for Grades K-8 devote over 65% (the minimum established by EdReports) of instructional time to the major work of each grade. For Grades K-5, an average of over 80% of the instructional materials are focused on major content, and for Grades 6-8, 69% of the materials are focused on major content. For all grades (K-8), the materials only assess grade-level content although we have curriculum resources for spiral review.

Coherence

The Review found that the instructional materials for K-8 provide opportunities for the supporting standards to be used to enhance the major work of each grade level and that the supporting work of each grade is connected to the major standards/clusters for that grade level. Additionally, across all grades, the review found that content designated for one grade level is viable for one year.

Rigor and Balance

According to the Review, Leap Mathematics K-8 materials develop conceptual understanding and procedural skill and fluency and balance the three aspects of rigor.

Usability

The Review concluded that the materials provide teachers with many useful supports, including:

- annotations and suggestions for how to enact the student materials and ancillary materials with specific attention to engaging students in order to guide their mathematical development,
- adult-level expectations and examples of complex grade-level concepts,
- standards correlation information that explains the role of the standards in the context of the overall series,
- explanations of the instructional approaches of the program, and
- a comprehensive list of materials needed to support instructional activities (K-4).

Practice-Content Connections

The review concluded that the materials meaningfully connect the standards for mathematical content and the standards for mathematical practice.

Assessment

The review found that the assessments include opportunities for students to demonstrate the full intent of grade-level/ course-level standards and practices across the series and that the materials indicate which content standards are assessed, provide multiple opportunities to determine students' learning, and offer guidance to teachers about interpreting student performance.

Student Supports

Leap Mathematics K-8 intentionally includes many research-based strategies for working with special populations and ELLs and offers materials to support with differentiation. In K-4, these strategies and supports are explicitly named as strategies and supports for the special populations they are meant to support, along with clear and detailed guidance to support all learners.

Teacher Supports: Research Basis and Development of Beyond-Course/Grade-Level Content Knowledge

As noted above, there are many strong teacher supports built into the curricular materials. There are adult-level explanations and examples of concepts beyond the current course so that teachers can improve their own knowledge of the subject and clearly identify the research that informs the math program's instructional strategies.

Assessment: Mathematical Practices and Guidance for Follow-Up

As noted above, the assessments included in the materials are strong and effective at evaluating student learning outcomes. Our assessments clearly define which practice standards are assessed and provide detailed guidance to teachers about potential errors, misconceptions, and how to follow up with students based on data elicited by the assessments.

Our Open Source Curriculum Website and Contact Information

The Leap Mathematics K-8 materials will be published and available to all via our open source portal on our website. If you are looking for more information about the program and how to implement it, please visit our website for support. We highly recommend partnership with Leap Educational Consulting to support strong implementation and to maximize student achievement.

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