**MATH CORPS**

**Our Focus**
- All students in grades 4 – 8
- Students in need of math support

**Institute Training**
- Evidence-based intervention
- Data-based decision-making

**Fidelity Coaching**
- Content: Master Coaches
- On-site: Internal Coaches

**What We Do**
- Evidence-based intervention
  - Core skills in whole and rational number understanding
    - Conceptual understanding
    - Computational proficiency
    - Word problem solving

**What We Change**
- Basic fact fluency skills
- Number and operation skills
- Self efficacy and perceived value of math
  - Faster than average growth in broad-based math skills
  - Increased rates of proficiency on the state test
  - Increased completion of advanced math courses

**Career readiness and college enrollment**

**How We Support**
- Screening

**Serves Minnesota**
New research further validates that combining the people power of AmeriCorps with effective math instruction puts students on the path to algebra proficiency.

“It is critical to be successful in algebra in order to excel in higher math and be ready for college. Math Corps has been a key partner in our efforts to ensure all students are ready for advanced math courses and STEM careers. Our Math Corps students average twice the growth of other students – and this new finding confirms what I have already observed: Math Corps interventions get great results for kids, and set them on a path for continued academic success.”

– Dr. Mike McCollor  
Principal  
Washington Technology Magnet School

Math Corps Works

Key Findings:
- Math Corps students in grades 4-8 made gains in math skills that were significantly larger than students who did not receive Math Corps support.
- The effects of Math Corps translate into meaningful differences in the trajectory of students’ math skills. At the conclusion of the study, Math Corps students were 2-3 months ahead of their expected trajectory, getting them back on track for the academic and career success associated with math proficiency.
- The challenge for students already behind in math skills is that unless they receive direct and targeted interventions, they will always remain behind. This study confirms Math Corps students are accelerating their progress in every grade.
The Research: Rigor and Results

Research was funded by the Brady Education Foundation, which seeks to close the achievement gap for children living in poverty. The Foundation pursues its mission by promoting collaboration between researchers and educators to assist children who are at risk of poor school outcomes.

- Researchers used the “gold standard” of evaluation—a randomized controlled trial (RCT) in which nearly 500 4th-8th grade students were randomly assigned to either a treatment or control group.
- Significant, meaningful effects were found across age levels, an exceptionally positive outcome that is rare within rigorous educational research.
- Very few educational programs are studied via RCTs. In the area of math, fewer than 10% of existing RCTs have seen positive results.

Why is this Important? Math Matters

- Math skills are highly predictive of high school graduation. Nearly 90% of students who fail 6th grade math drop out of high school.
- Passing algebra is strongly correlated with college attendance and graduation. Unfortunately, on the statewide math assessment, more than 40% of Minnesota’s 8th are failing to meet that benchmark.
- Gaps in math knowledge begin as early as elementary school, increase over time, and prove to be a major obstacle for students from lower-income families.
- By graduation time, less than 1% of low income students are advanced math learners.

What’s Next: Resources are Required to Expand a Proven, Cost-effective, and Efficient Solution

- The combination of empirically supported educational programming with an infrastructure to support high quality training and coaching is an innovative solution.
- Nearly 130,000 4th-8th grade students in Minnesota are currently in need of this solution.

About Math Corps

Math Corps, a strategic initiative of ServeMinnesota, is a revolutionary AmeriCorps tutoring program that helps Minnesota students become proficient in algebra by the end of 8th, setting them up for success in academics and an economy dependent on understanding math concepts. Through Math Corps, 4th-8th grade students get the opportunity to master each concept, instilling a sense of confidence and a willingness to take on new challenges. Since 2007, Math Corps has reached nearly 20,000 students by training and placing much-needed tutors in schools across Minnesota to provide tutoring during the school day. By harnessing the power of AmeriCorps, it provides the key components to help educators transfer educational science into hands-on support for students who need an extra boost.

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