



Accelerating Math Proficiency for Minnesota Students

According to data from last year's state standardized tests, 123,995 Minnesota children from 4th to 8th grade did not demonstrate grade-level proficiency in math. This means that 40% of students did not have the math skills they need to be successful 21st century learners and, ultimately, high school graduates.

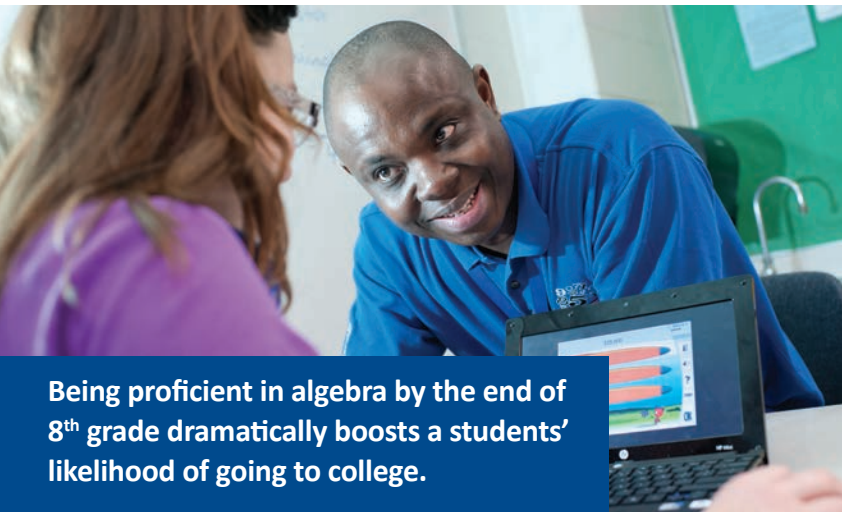
Math proficiency rates decreased at every grade level – from 70.9% in 3rd grade to 57.8% in 8th. Education officials across Minnesota are concerned because the state now requires proficiency on the 11th grade math exam (or on a retest during 12th grade) in order for a student to earn a diploma. Only 49% of 11th grade students achieved proficient scores last year, raising fears of an even higher wave of non-graduating students.

These statistics also point to a troubling future for Minnesota's economy. In 2008, the National Mathematics Advisory Panel reported that job growth in the mathematics-

intensive science and engineering industries is outpacing the overall job growth by three to one. Students need to acquire math skills to be prepared for these more technical careers. And without a math-savvy local workforce to fill these positions, Minnesota companies will not be able to compete nationally or globally, thereby stagnating long-term economic growth.

A unique tutoring program

Minnesota Math Corps is designed to expand the instructional capacity of schools by harnessing the power of AmeriCorps members to deliver systematic, research-based math instruction to students. Math Corps was launched in 2008 as a pilot project in five schools within the St. Cloud School District. Today, it has expanded to 175 sites in 90 additional school districts. The goal is for 5,000 students to receive supplemental math tutoring in the 2015-2016 school year.



Being proficient in algebra by the end of 8th grade dramatically boosts a student's likelihood of going to college.

Only 11% of students who failed math in sixth grade earned their high school diplomas.

– *What your Community Can Do to End Its Dropout Crisis: Learnings from Research and Practice*; Robert Balfanz, Center for Social Organization of Schools Johns Hopkins University, 2007

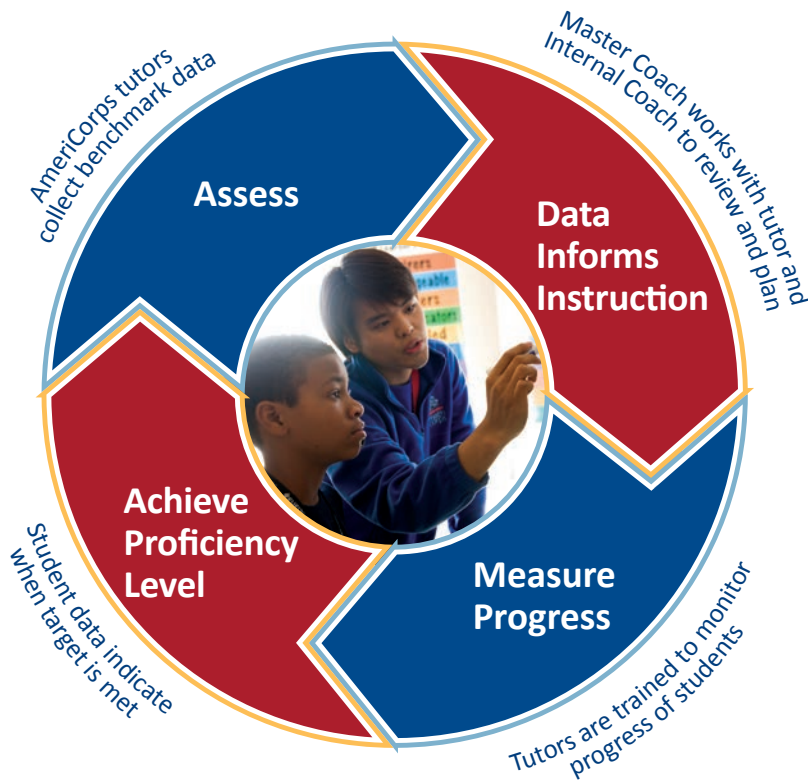
What is the model?



Minnesota Math Corps is a data-driven tutoring program that supplements schools' efforts to ensure that students become prepared for algebra by 8th grade. Math Corps members are trained to deliver research-based tutoring interventions to students struggling with math. The program is guided by math experts and specifically targets students in grades 4 through 8 who scored partially proficient on the previous year's state math exam. These

students (65,700 in grades 4-8 last year) have some math skills but are at risk for not being prepared for high school mathematics, thereby reducing their future education and employment opportunities.

Math Corps members provide targeted supplemental tutoring in two critical math strands that correlate to statewide assessment tests: Numbers & Operation and Algebra. Working with students each week, tutors monitor progress, determine which interventions are appropriate, and help students meet proficiency standards. They provide consistent support for those students who need an extra boost.



A strategic initiative of ServeMinnesota

“Math Corps is research based and proven to work. It’s concrete, representational and abstract – all the things that research is saying about math. Math Corps is vital to any school that needs to give students extra support. You’re improving a child’s ability to practice and maintain a skill that will help them later on in life that will eventually turn into helping society – that’s a win-win.”

– Shawn Gombos
Principal

Discovery Elementary School
St. Cloud, Minnesota



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