Edina Public Schools has a long-standing and well-earned reputation for academic excellence, and it has been consistently selected as one of the top school districts in the country. The community has demonstrated a strong commitment to the schools through ongoing support of excess levy and capital improvement referenda.

Edina is a suburban community made up of many professionals and is located southwest of Minneapolis. The district serves over 7,000 students in 6 elementary schools, 2 middle schools and 1 senior high school. About 500 students from the greater Minneapolis area are attending Edina schools through Open Enrollment or Enrollment Options provisions.

Edina Public Schools adopted Kindergarten Everyday Mathematics in the fall of 1989 and implemented the subsequent grade levels of Everyday Mathematics year by year as they were written, field-tested, and published. In fact, Edina Public Schools was one of the original 13 pilot development sites in the country to implement and field-test Everyday Mathematics. Among the first to receive training in this new mathematics curriculum from the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project was a cadre of teachers from Edina Public Schools.

High Expectations

“This is a community that expects its students to have high mathematical skills,” states Dr. Jenni Norlin-Weaver, director of teaching and learning for Edina Public Schools. “With the long-term implementation of Everyday Mathematics in the elementary grades, we have been able to accelerate the academic development of most of our students in mathematics through the middle school and secondary levels. A Grade 6 teacher remarked that students who have followed the Everyday Mathematics curriculum are so much more able to think mathematically and in the abstract.” For many years, the high school Algebra I course has been the standard curriculum for Grade 8 students in the district.

Edina Public Schools MCA Grade 3 Mathematics Percent at Achievement Levels III and IV*

At Grade 3, 67% were performing at mathematical achievement Levels III and IV.

Edina Public Schools MCA Grade 5 Mathematics Percent at Achievement Levels III and IV*

In 2002, 76% of Grade 5 students achieved mathematical performance measured at Levels III and IV.
It is our experience that the Everyday Mathematics curriculum has students performing about one year ahead of the traditional grade-level expectations.

Dr. Jenni Norlin-Weaver, Director of Teaching and Learning

The most capable mathematics students are taking Algebra I in Grade 7 and Geometry in Grade 8,” reports Dr. Norlin-Weaver. “This expands the range and level of mathematics that these students can explore in high school tremendously. Parents value that level of mathematical capacity.”

Results

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) are part of the educational accountability system in Minnesota. The MCAs are criterion-referenced tests that are aligned to Minnesota state learning standards. At the elementary level, mathematics is assessed at Grades 3 and 5. Results are reported according to five Achievement Levels and are used by teachers and administrators to make decisions about curriculum and instructional practices.

Since 1998, when the MCAs were first administered, students in Edina Public Schools have consistently ranked at the top of the state in meeting or exceeding Achievement Level III in mathematics. (Achievement Levels III and IV on the MCA represent student work above the grade-level expectations set by the state.) The most recent 2002 MCA results placed 67% of Grade 3 students at Level III or higher, while 76% of Grade 5 students scored at Level III or higher.

Dr. Norlin-Weaver sums it up: “Everyday Mathematics provides an excellent foundation in mathematics and analytical thought processes for our students in Edina Public Schools. The students learn so much more mathematics than is traditionally expected. Our MCA scores, with so many students achieving above grade-level expectations, certainly prove this point.”

Meeting All Expectations

For additional information on SRA/McGraw-Hill’s Everyday Mathematics program, please contact us toll-free at 1-888-SRA-4543 and visit our Web site at www.sra4kids.com.