

Everyday Mathematics® Success Stories



Temple ISD: A Real Sense of Pride With Everyday Mathematics

The city of Temple is located in Central Texas, approximately 60 miles north of Austin, the state capital. With its origins in agriculture and as a railroad town, Temple today enjoys a reputation as a regional and national medical center, with several prominent hospitals and medical facilities. The population of the Temple area is over 55,000.

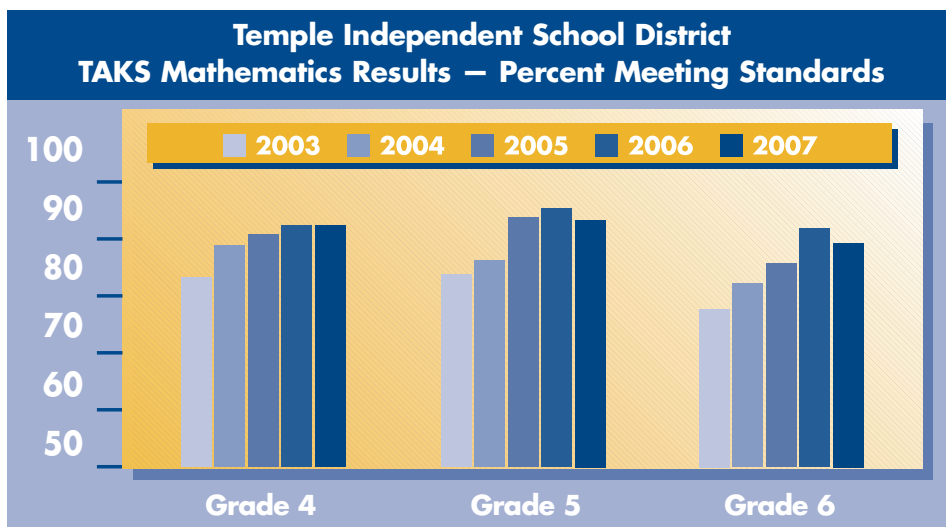
The Temple Independent School District (ISD) educates 8,000 students in Grades PK-12. The district operates an early childhood center, 9 elementary schools, 3 middle schools and one high school as well as several alternative educational

facilities. The student population is racially and ethnically diverse with a balance of students that is about 39% Caucasian, 30% Hispanic and 29% African-American. Approximately 54% of the students qualify for the federally funded free and reduced-price lunch program.

University of Chicago School Mathematics Project

Everyday Mathematics® is the elementary curriculum developed by The University of Chicago School Mathematics Project (UCSMP). The UCSMP began in 1983 with a foundation

grant for a multi-faceted project to improve mathematics education for the vast majority of students in Grades K-12. Dr. Kay Coburn, the former math curriculum coordinator in the district, recalls, "You need to understand the reasons that led to the creation of the UCSMP. Many students in the United States were posting poor test results, and when international comparisons were made, the US results appeared even more unfavorable." Several major corporations and their foundations approached the University of Chicago with funding to investigate the lagging performance of American students in mathematics.



In 2007, preliminary TAKS results show 84% of Temple ISD students in Grade 4 meeting state standards in mathematics. In Grade 5, 86% of Temple ISD students met the standards. Seventy-eight percent (78%) of Grade 6 students also met the state mathematics standards.

* The 2007 TAKS results are preliminary.

"Temple ISD was the first public school district in Texas to adopt *Everyday Mathematics*, and it was Temple ISD that helped convince Everyday Learning Corporation, the initial publisher of the program, to submit a state adoption bid for the first time. Temple found out about the program through friends at a private Episcopal School. The question was: 'If the program was good enough for private school students, why couldn't TISD and Texas public school students also use the program?'"

*Dr. Kay Coburn,
Math Curriculum Coordinator, Retired*

Early Adopter of *Everyday Mathematics*

The Temple ISD (TISD) implemented the Algebra I course from UCSMP in 1990 for gifted Grade 8 students in the middle schools. It soon became clear that these course materials were working: students who had followed the UCSMP curriculum consistently scored at the 99%–100% level on the end-of-course (EOC) examinations year after year.

At about the same time, mathematics test scores for most grade levels in the Temple ISD were in need of improvement. Several schools were designated “low performing” for several years. This situation caused a group of teachers to actively pursue an alternative mathematics curriculum. In the spring of 1995, the teachers reviewed *Everyday Mathematics*. Dr. Coburn recalls the teachers imploring her, “Please find a way to get us these materials.”

Temple ISD implemented *Everyday Mathematics* in Grades K-2 in the 1995-1996 school year. Teachers in Grades 3–6 received *Everyday Mathematics* Teacher Resource Packages so that they could become familiar with the program and be prepared for the full implementation in the following year. Professional development accompanied all phases of the *Everyday Mathematics* implementation. Training sessions for teachers were held before the school year began, and bi-monthly, half-day training sessions using UCSMP materials continued the learning through the school year.

All Children Can Learn

“One of the foundations of the *Everyday Mathematics* program is that all children can learn mathematics,” continues Dr. Coburn. “We have certainly found this to be true here in Temple.

“A program like *Everyday Mathematics*, which raises expectations for all students, allows teachers to see more potential in every child. When our students from lower socioeconomic circumstances enter Temple High School, many say that they often feel that math is their best subject. I think the teachers in Grades K-6 and *Everyday Mathematics* laid the foundations for these students’ success.”

Advanced Math Classes

It became evident very quickly how well students were prepared with *Everyday Mathematics*. After two years of implementation, TISD felt about 5–7% of the grade 7 students were prepared to complete Algebra and go on to Geometry during grade 8. About 30–35% of TISD students complete Algebra I before high school. This has allowed students the time to take AB and BC Calculus for Advanced Placement (AP) opportunities. In addition, they also have time to take AP Statistics.

TAKS Results

In 2003, the State of Texas began administering a new state assessment, the Texas Assessment of Knowledge & Skills (TAKS). Results on the TAKS measure how well students are meeting state learning standards. In the most recent year of rigorous TAKS testing, 67% of Grade 3 Temple ISD met the state standards in mathematics. Similarly, 84% of Grade 4 students passed the TAKS mathematics exam. At Grade 5, 86% met the TAKS mathematics standards and 78% of Grade 6 students also met the standards.

“Our teachers saw the opportunity and potential in the *Everyday Mathematics* program to teach real mathematics to the students in Temple ISD back in spring 1995,” states Dr. Coburn. “We have a real sense of pride as we see other large districts across the country adopting the program. The teachers of Temple ISD were right about *Everyday Mathematics* way back when!”

For additional information on the *Everyday Mathematics* program, please contact us toll-free at 1-888-772-4543 or visit our Web site at www.WrightGroup.com.

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