

**Out of Level Math Committee Meeting - December 7, 2006**

Jenny Garcia-Macko (Coordinator for Textbook Adoption Support) led the Out of Level Math Committee during this session with approximately 30 attendees. Garcia-Macko shared a lot of information gathered by the administration, including current off Level Math classes and matrices, current math placement possibilities in D214 and D211, current off-level math programs in other districts, and more.

**Current Off-Level Math Classes and Matrices**

Matrices from four schools were shared (Pleasant Hill, TJ, Whiteley, and Lake Louise) as well as the District matrix for placing into 7<sup>th</sup> grade math (new and in use in all schools this year). D15 schools have a variety of out of level math programs, with the only consistent out-of-level program being in 6<sup>th</sup> grade (the district has required all schools to provide out-of-level math instruction for 6th grade, using three levels of math texts: MC1 for regular math, MC2 for out-of-level math, and MC3 for gifted math).

Below is a summary of current out-of-level math instruction at different schools around the district (no schools currently have out-of-level math instruction programs for Grades K-2):

**Current Out-of-Level Math Instruction - Grades K-6**

School	Instruction			
	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
Jane Addams	Gr. 3 Basal, Math Exp	Gr. 4 Basal	Gr. 5 Basal	MSC-2
*Central Road	No	No	MSC-1	MSC-2
Kimball Hill	No	No	No	MSC-2
*Hunting Ridge	E Math Gr. 4	E Math Gr. 5	E Math Gr. 6	MSC-2/MSC-3
*TJ	No	No	MSC-1	MSC-2
*Marion Jordan	E Math Gr. 4	E Math Gr. 5	E Math Gr. 6	MSC-2
Lake Louise	No	No	No	MSC-2
Lincoln	No	No	No	MSC-2
Paddock	No	No	No	MSC-2
Pleasant Hill	E Math Gr. 3	E Math Gr. 4	E Math Gr. 5	MSC-2
*Sanborn	No	No	E Math Gr. 5	MSC-2
Whiteley	No	Yes	Yes	MSC-2
Virginia Lake	No	No	No	MSC-2
Willow Bend	No	No	No	MSC-2
Winston-Elem	No	No	No	MSC-2

*Math Exp = Math Expressions*

*E Math = Everyday Math*

*MSC-1 = Middle School Course 1, Grade 6*

*MSC-2 = Middle School Course 2, Grade 7*

\*Gifted 5/6 site

## Current Out-of-Level Math Instruction - Grades 7-8

<b>School</b>	<b>Matrix Criteria</b>	<b>Grade 7 Book</b>	<b>Grade 8 Book</b>	<b>Matrix Criteria</b>	<b>Grade 7 Book</b>	<b>Grade 8 Book</b>
<b>Plum Grove</b>	9-17	Algebra A	Algebra 1	18+	Algebra 1	Adv. Algebra
<b>Sandburg</b>	9-17	Algebra A	Algebra 1	18+	Algebra 1	Adv. Algebra
<b>Sundling</b>	9-17	Algebra A	Algebra Classic	18+	Algebra 1	Algebra 1&2
<b>Winston</b>	9-17	Algebra A	Algebra Classic	18+	Algebra 1 (ch1-6)	Algebra 1 (ch 7-13)

*Algebra A = Pre-Algebra by McDougal Littell*

*Algebra Classic = Classic Algebra Book by McDougal Littell*

*Algebra 1 = Algebra 1 by McDougal Littell*

*Adv. Algebra = Advanced Topics, Algebra 1-Structure and Method: The Classic by McDougal Littell*

*Algebra 1&2 = Laidlaw Algebra I and Prentice-Hall Algebra II*

Attendees had concerns about repeating texts from out-of-level math instruction in 6<sup>th</sup> grade to the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum, if matrix does not appropriately place the child. Mary Zarr explained that 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade is set for now, as all the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes have been aligned for out-of-level math instruction. She emphasized that the committee should be coming up with the overall direction and requirements for our out-of-level math program, that she and the administration can develop the appropriate matrices, curriculum and materials.

### Placing into High School Math

The administration shared EXPLORE Math Scores (taken in 8<sup>th</sup> grade) for students going into D211 (2008, 2009 and 2010 classes). EXPLORE Math scores alone determine placement into high school math classes. District 15 class averaged scores ranged from 17.5 - 17.9. Students scoring 15-18 are placed in M117 Algebra, so on average students from D15 are placing into M117 Algebra as freshmen. M117 Algebra is followed by M217 (Geometry) or M218 (Acc. Geometry) in the sophomore year. Students who score 19-22 on the EXPLORE Math test are placed in M217 (Geometry) directly, and students who score 23-25 are placed in M218 (Acc. Geometry) directly as freshmen. For students who do not place into a class based on their EXPLORE score, they still have the option to take that class via teacher recommendation or parental waiver. Attendees asked the administration to look at the test scores of schools that have out-of-level math programs. Attendees asked if D211 can bus kids to the high school from 8<sup>th</sup> grade for geometry, as is done in D214 (for algebra).

### Out-of-Level Math programs in other Districts

Other districts are also reviewing their programs, due to the new standards. Often, in other districts, there is no separate "out of level" program - just "gifted" and "regular" ed. Districts that do have "out of level" often start in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Attendees asked how many kids we have in our out-of-level programs. Mary Zarr emphasized that even if we only have one child that needs out-of-level math instruction, that that child should be accommodated (not necessarily with his own teacher/classroom, but with some kind of instruction). Mary Zarr shared information from the Just 4 Kids website ([www.just4kids.org](http://www.just4kids.org)) about their Illinois Best Practice Study of

elementary and middle schools. This study investigated the practices of schools that consistently outperform their peers - in Illinois, 9 higher performing middle schools and 17 higher performing elementary schools were investigated. They found best practices along 5 themes: 1) Curriculum and Academic Goals; 2) Staff Selection and Leadership; 3) Instructional Programs; 4) Monitoring, using Data; and 5) Recognition and Intervention.

#### Homework

The attendees homework was to review all the data given. The DOI homework was to continue to identify districts with out-of-level math programs, bring in panels from other schools that have one. Attendees asked the administration to interview children who have graduated from D15 and ask what they think of the program. Attendees discussed that the program needs to be flexible to accommodate the needs of the kids. Mary Zarr emphasized that she will have to create room in her budget for these program changes, even if the Board does not authorize any additional funds. She said the purpose of this program is not to raise test scores, but to provide challenge for children that need it. Mary emphasized that the committee's task is to determine what kind of program we want for district 15.

The next meeting is Jan 4<sup>th</sup>.