

Math in Focus

Singapore Math[®]
by Marshall Cavendish[®]



CASE STUDY

Little Falls Twp School District

School District Overview

Little Falls Twp. School District is a suburban school district in Little Falls, NJ with two elementary schools and one secondary school. The district has a current enrollment of over 800 students in Grades K–12. The professional staff includes 81 teachers, with approximately 70 support personnel and administrators.

Little Falls Twp. School District is eligible for Title I assistance. Ninety-three percent of the students are Caucasian (78%) or Hispanic (15%), and the remaining student body consists of students identified as Asian (4%) or other (3%). Fifteen percent of the students have an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge

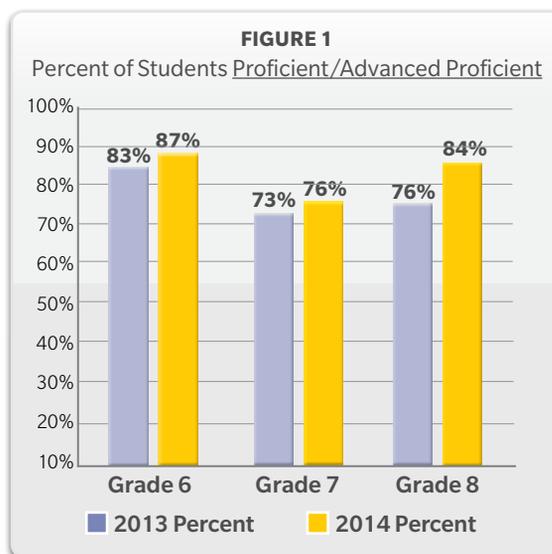
The New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK) is the state test for students in Grades 3–8. The NJ ASK measures student achievement in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science (Grades 4 and 8).

At Grades 6–8, the math NJ ASK is comprised of multiple choice, short-constructed response, and extended response items covering five domains equally distributed across the tests: Number & Numerical Operations, Geometry & Measurement, Patterns & Algebra, Data Analysis Prob & Discrete Math, and Problem Solving.

The New Jersey students' test scores can be categorized into one of three levels of mastery: Advanced Proficient, Proficient, and Partially Proficient. Students scoring at the Proficient or Advanced levels are said to demonstrate recall, recognition, and application of New Jersey mathematics standards.

Student Success with Math in Focus

To determine if HMH's *Math in Focus*[®] had an impact on learning, student NJ ASK state mathematics test scores from the Spring of 2013, prior to using the program, and the Spring of 2014, after one year of usage, were obtained for Grades 6, 7, and 8. These findings are presented in Figure 1.



The comparison of achievement scores revealed that at all grade levels examined, **the percentage of students scoring at Proficient/Advanced Proficient were greater in 2014, after using Math in Focus, than the previous year, with an average gain of over 5%.**

Conclusion

This one-year examination of the implementation of *Math in Focus* at Little Falls Twp. School District revealed that the program was associated with increased mathematics achievement.

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