

Math in Focus

Singapore Math[®]
by Marshall Cavendish[®]



CASE STUDY

Alden Central School District

School District Overview

Alden Central School District is a rural school district in Alden, New York with two elementary schools and one secondary school. The district has a current enrollment of over 1600 students in Grades K–12. The professional staff includes 130 teachers, with approximately 120 support personnel and administrators.

Alden Central School District is eligible for Title I assistance. Ninety-six percent of the students are Caucasian and the remaining student body consists of students identified as other (4%). Fifteen percent of the students have an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

New York State Testing Program

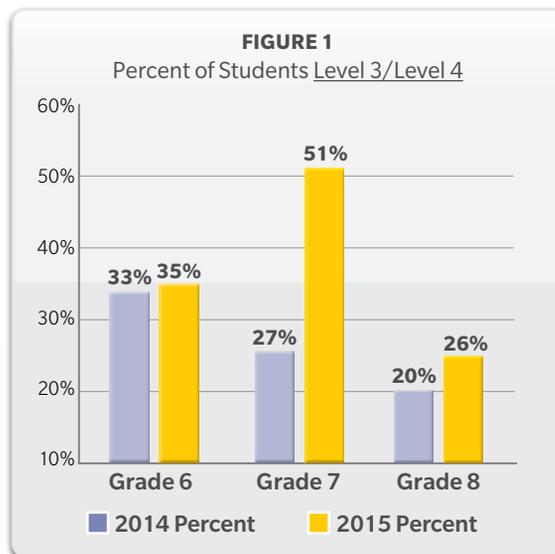
The New York State annual test is taken by all students in Grades 3–8, in the spring. The test includes assessment of ELA, Math, and Science. The test focuses on how well students have acquired the skills and knowledge described in the state Common Core Learning Standards.

At Grades 6–8, the math New York State Test is comprised of multiple choice, short-constructed response, and extended response items covering five domains equally distributed across the tests: Ratios and Proportional Relationships, The Number System, Expressions and Equations, Functions, and Geometry.

The New York State Test scores are categorized into one of four levels of mastery including Level 1 (Well below Proficient), Level 2 (Below Proficient), Level 3 (Proficient), and Level 4 (Above Proficient). Students scoring at Levels 3 and 4 are said to excel and demonstrate knowledge, skills, and practices embodied by the New York State P-12 Common Core Learning Standards for Mathematics.

Student Success with Math in Focus

To determine if HMH’s *Math in Focus*[®] had an impact on learning, student NY State mathematics test scores from the Spring of 2014, prior to using the program, and the Spring of 2015, 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 Levels 3 and 4 were greater in 2015, after using *Math in Focus*, than the previous year, with an average gain of over 10%.**

Conclusion

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

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