Strengthening Your Math Program: Creating a Plan for Student Success

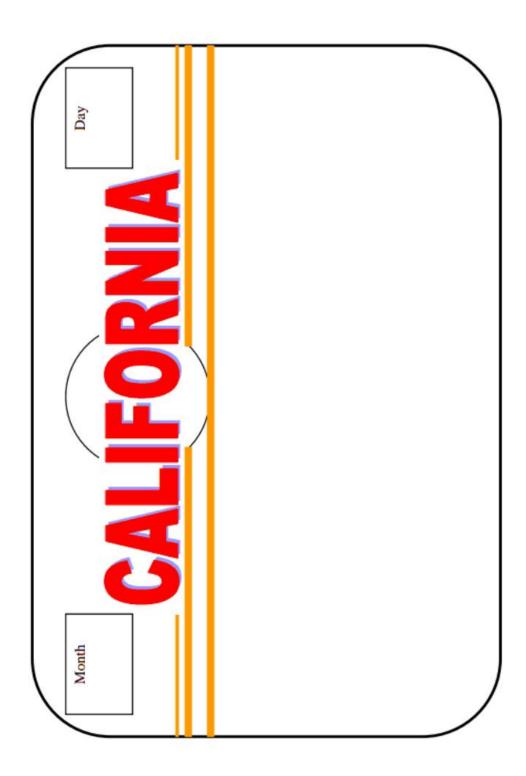


The Math Projects Journal Temecula Valley USD Chris Shore



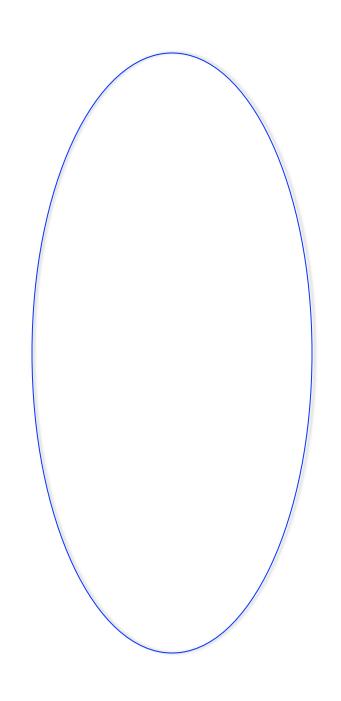
shore@mathprojects.com (a) MathProjects













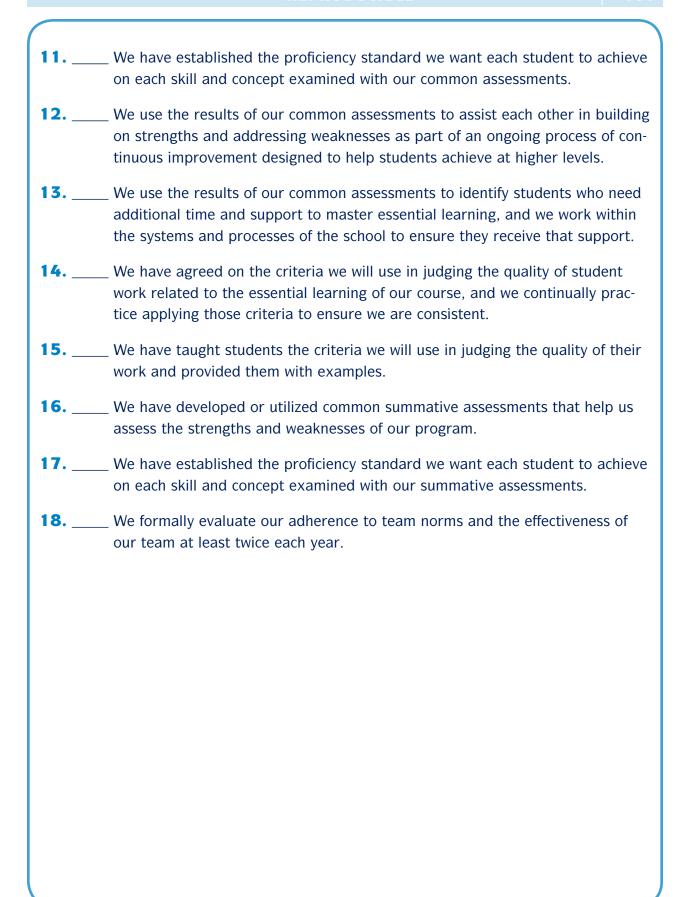
Current Reality

Strengths

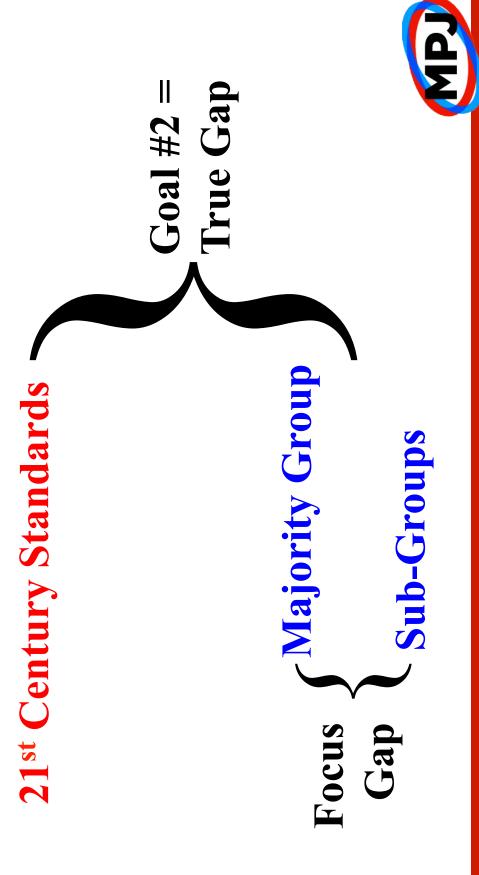
Obstacles

Critical Issues for Team Consideration

Team Nar	me:								
Team Me	mbers:								
Jse the fo	ollowing ra	ating scale	e to indi	cate the ex	xtent to	which ead	ch state	ement is tr	ue of your
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Not Tru	e of Our	Team	Oui	r Team Is	Address	ing This		True of O	ur Team
1	_ We have	e identified	d team i	norms and	protoco	ols to guid	de us in	working t	ogether.
2	improve attain. (upon this SMART G	s level o oals are	t achievem f achievem Strategic, Goals are	ent we Measu	are worki rable, Att	ng inter ainable	rdepender , Results o	itly to
3	(that is,	the essen	tial lear	n is clear o ning) that (2) each ι	student	s will acq	uire as	a result of	f (1) our
4		_		ntial learn nts require	•			ct standard	ds and
5		e identified the essent		e content a iculum.	ind topio	cs we can	elimina	ate to devo	ote more
6	We have agreed on how to best sequence the content of the course and have established pacing guides to help students achieve the intended essential learning.								
7				erequisite ntial learni					d in
8				gies and cr te knowled			ts to as	sess wheth	her stu-
9				egies and s skills when					ring pre-
10		=		uent comm s mastery o				ts that hel	p us



Close the True Gap



Guiding Principles for School Mathematics

Full statements of the Guiding Principles follow; *Principles to Actions* elaborates the unique importance of each, as summarized briefly below each statement. The first Guiding Principle, Teaching and Learning, has primacy among the Guiding Principles, with the others serving as the Essential Elements that support it.

Teaching and Learning.

An excellent mathematics program requires effective teaching that engages students in meaningful learning through individual and collaborative experiences that promote their ability to make sense of mathematical ideas and reason mathematically.

Access and Equity

An excellent mathematics program requires that all students have access to a high-quality mathematics curriculum, effective teaching and learning, high expectations, and the support and resources needed to maximize their learning potential.

Curriculum

An excellent mathematics program includes a curriculum that develops important mathematics along coherent learning progressions and develops connections among areas of mathematical study and between mathematics and the real world.

Tools and Technology

An excellent mathematics program integrates the use of mathematical tools and technology as essential resources to help students learn and make sense of mathematical ideas, reason mathematically, and communicate their mathematical thinking.

Assessment

An excellent mathematics program ensures that assessment is an integral part of instruction, provides evidence of proficiency with important mathematics content and practices, includes a variety of strategies and data sources, and informs feedback to students, instructional decisions, and program improvement.

Professionalism

In an excellent mathematics program, educators hold themselves and their colleagues accountable for the mathematical success of every student and for personal and collective professional growth toward effective teaching and learning of mathematics.

Effective Mathematics Teaching Practices

Establish mathematics goals to focus learning. Effective teaching of mathematics establishes clear goals for the mathematics that students are learning, situates goals within learning progressions, and uses the goals to guide instructional decisions.

Implement tasks that promote reasoning and problem solving. Effective teaching of mathematics engages students in solving and discussing tasks that promote mathematical reasoning and problem solving and allow multiple entry points and varied solution strategies.

Use and connect mathematical representations. Effective teaching of mathematics engages students in making connections among mathematical representations to deepen understanding of mathematics concepts and procedures and as tools for problem solving.

Facilitate meaningful mathematical discourse. Effective teaching of mathematics facilitates discourse among students to build shared understanding of mathematical ideas by analyzing and comparing student approaches and arguments.

Pose purposeful questions. Effective teaching of mathematics uses purposeful questions to assess and advance students' reasoning and sense making about important mathematical ideas and relationships.

Build procedural fluency from conceptual understanding. Effective teaching of mathematics builds fluency with procedures on a foundation of conceptual understanding so that students, over time, become skillful in using procedures flexibly as they solve contextual and mathematical problems.

Support productive struggle in learning mathematics. Effective teaching of mathematics consistently provides students, individually and collectively, with opportunities and supports to engage in productive struggle as they grapple with mathematical ideas and relationships.

Elicit and use evidence of student thinking. Effective teaching of mathematics uses evidence of student thinking to assess progress toward mathematical understanding and to adjust instruction continually in ways that support and extend learning.

Teaching Students to

THINK, COMMUNICATE, COLLABORATE & CREATE through Effective Teaching Principles



4 Claims:

Concepts & Procedures, Problem Solving, Communicate Reasoning, Modeling & Data Analysis

Math Goals

(Dual Targets)

Content Target:



Representations

(Multiple Representations)

Practice Target



Meaningful Discourse

(Feedback)

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- 2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- 4. Model with mathematics.
- 5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
- 6. Attend to precision.
- 7. Look for and make use of structure.
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.



Purposeful Questioning

(Dig Deeper & Reach Higher)

Procedural from Conceptual

(Progression)

Tasks & Access

(Engagement & Low Floor/High Ceiling)



Productive Struggle

(Monitor & Adjust)

Evidence of Student Thinking

(Collect & Reflect)

Rigor: Fluency, Deep Understanding, Application, Dual Intensity

Unit 6: Quadratics

(Mar 5 - May 4, 7 weeks)

Big Idea

The family of quadratic functions has equations of the form $y = ax^2 + bx + c$, which can be solved by many methods, and graphs as parabolas.

Essential Questions	Classroom Activities/ Tasks	Prerequisite Skills
 1. How do you use different forms of a quadratic function (standard, factored, vertex/completing the square) to graph the function and identify key features? 2. How do you solve a quadratic equation using the most efficient method? (inspection, square roots, factoring, completing the square, and quadratic formula) 3. What are the key features of parabolas in context? 	 Pearson PT9: Area of a Sign Mission to Mars Assessment CIA Unit 6: 	 Determine Linearity Rules of Exponents Rational Exponents Translation of Graphs Evaluating Expressions

Unit Topics / Concepts	Content Standards	Resources
Graphing Quadratic Functions • Characteristics of a Parabola	* F.IF.7. Graph functions expressed symbolically and show key features of the graph, by hand in simple cases and using technology for more complicated cases.	CA Framework: Algebra 1 Critical Areas Algebra 1 Pearson Textbook
 From Standard Form g(x) = ax² + bx +c Vertex, x-intercepts, 	a. Graph quadratic functions and show intercepts, maxima, and minima.	Pearson Realize Login Chapter 9 Get Ready Ch 9
zeros, roots, maxima, minima, axis of symmetry, (parabola) • Find Vertex	F.IF.4. For a function that models a relationship between two quantities, interpret key features of graphs and tables in terms of the quantities, and sketch	9-1 to 9-6 Concept Byte 9-2 Math Modeling: The Long Shot Teacher Info
 Use Table From Factored Form From Vertex Form g(x) = 	graphs showing key features given a verbal description of the relationship. Key features include: intercepts; intervals	Student Handout Chapter Test 9
a(x − h)² + k • Interpret Various Forms; Quadratic Functions	where the function is increasing, decreasing, positive, or negative; relative maximums and minimums; symmetries;	Lessons & Tasks ➤ Clothesline ➤ 4-Digit Problem
 Transforming between forms. Create a Quadratic given 	end behavior. (COMPARE TO LINEAR; EXPONENTIAL;)	 Number Tricks Farmers Fence Hotties: Quadratics
a table of values. Solving Quadratic	*F.IF.8. Write a function defined by an expression in different but equivalent forms to reveal and explain different properties of the function	 → Home Run → Math in Careers 6 Divers → Mission to Mars → Review Solving Quadratics by
Functions • Solve by Factoring	a. Use the process of factoring and completing the square in a quadratic	Graphing Graphing

- Solve by Square Roots
- Completing the Square
- Solve by Quadratic Formula

function to show zeros, extreme values, and symmetry of the graph, and interpret these in terms of a context.

- * A.SSE.3. Choose and produce an equivalent form of an expression to reveal and explain properties of the quantity represented by the expression.
 - a. Factor a quadratic expression to reveal the zeros of the function it defines.
 - b. Complete the square in a quadratic expression to reveal the maximum or minimum value of the function it defines.
- * **A.REI.4.** Solve quadratic equations in one variable.
 - a. Use the method of completing the square to transform any quadratic equation in x into an equation of the form $(x p)^2 = q$ that has the same solutions. Derive the quadratic formula from this form.
 - b. Solve quadratic equations by inspection (e.g., for $x^2 = 49$), taking square roots, completing the square, the quadratic formula and factoring, as appropriate to the initial form of the equation.
- *A.SSE.2. Use the structure of an expression to identify ways to rewrite it. For example, see $x^4 y^4$ as $(x^2)^2 (y^2)^2$, thus recognizing it as a difference of squares that can be factored as $(x^2-y^2)(x^2+y^2)$.
- **A-APR.3.** Understand the relationship between zeros and factors of polynomials.
 - a. Identify zeros of polynomials when suitable factorizations are available. (cubic and quadratics that have linear factors)
- * ACED.1. Create equations and inequalities in one variable and use them to solve problems. Include equations arising from quadratic functions.

Desmos Marble Madness

Dan Meyer Hit the Hoop?

Reaching & Teaching "Those Kids" with Chris Shore

Resources

Online Boot Camp Numeracy Activities

The Math Projects Journal. Chris Shore, mathprojects.com

Clothesline Math. Chris Shore, clotheslinemath.com

Number Tricks. Chris Shore, numbertricks.net

Estimation 180, Andrew Stadel, estimation 180.com

Pure Number, purenumbers.tumblr.com

Todos, todos-math.org

Would You Rather, John Stevens, wyrmath.wordpress.com

Online Tasks

The Math Projects Journal. Chris Shore, mathprojects.com

101 Questions, Dan Meyer, 101qs.com

Glenrock Publishing, Robert Kaplinsky, robertkaplinsky.com

Graphing Stories, Dan Meyer & Buzz Math, graphingstories.com

Graph of the Week, Kelly Turner, turnersgraphoftheweek.webs.com

Illuminations, NCTM, illuminations.nctm.org

Illustrative Math, www.illustrativemathematics.org/

Mathalicious, Karim Kai Ani, mathalicious.com

Teacher to Teacher Press, Brad Fulton, www.tttpress.com

Visual Patterns, Fawn Nguyen, visualpatterns.org

Yummy Math, Brian Marks, yummymath.com

21st Century Classroom Resources

Achieve the Core, http://achievethecore.org/

Agile Mind, ccsstoolbox.agilemind.com/resources_samples.html

Common Core State Standards Initiative, www.corestandards.org/

Engage NY, engageNY.org

Ed Leader 21, www.edleader21.com

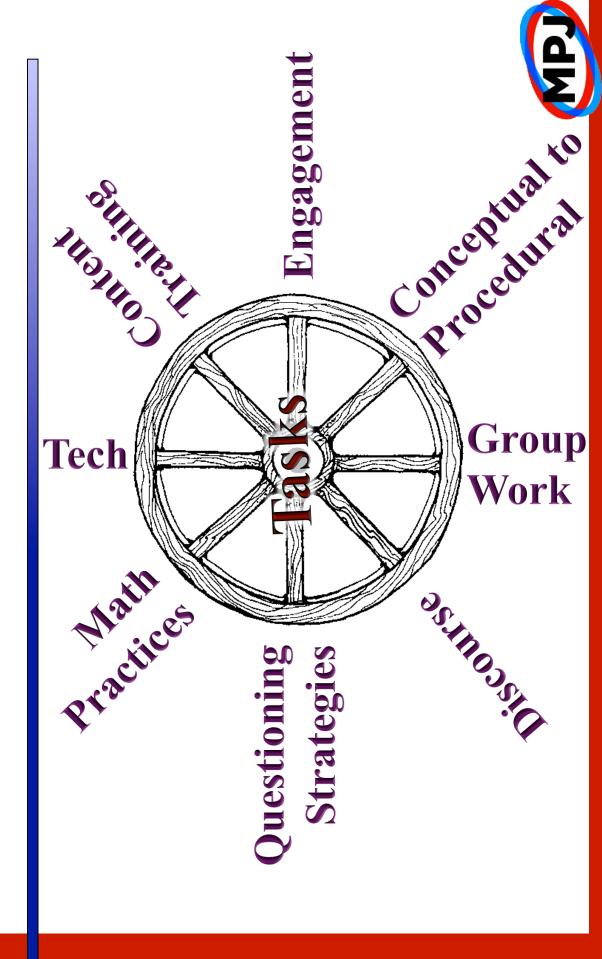
The Math Forum, mathforum.org

The Mathematics Vision Project, mathematics vision project.org/

PARCC, www.parcconline.org/parcc-assessment

Smarter Balance (SBAC), sampleitems.smarterbalanced.org

Tasks should be the HUB of PD





Catalyzing Change in High School Mathematics:

Initiating Critical Conversations

Executive Summary

The need for *Catalyzing Change* is clear: The steady improvement in mathematics learning seen since 1990 at the elementary and middle school levels has not been shared at the high school level, underscoring the critical need for change in mathematics education at the high school level. The purpose of *Catalyzing Change in High School Mathematics: Initiating Critical Conversations* is to open serious discussions among the key stakeholders in high school mathematics education to engage in resolving the vexing barriers that have long impeded meaningful and necessary change in high school mathematics education.

Background

The last three decades have seen significant progress in the teaching and learning of mathematics in the United States. The standards-based reform era began in 1989 when the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) published *Curriculum and Evaluation Standards for School Mathematics*, which introduced standards promoting rigorous mathematics content and the development of important mathematical processes and practices. NCTM soon followed this publication with closely related ones that outlined the teaching and assessment practices needed to support those standards (NCTM 1991, 1995). Subsequent iterations of Standards publications, including *Principles and Standards for School Mathematics* (NCTM 2000), *Curriculum Focal Points for Prekindergarten through Grade 8 Mathematics* (NCTM 2006), and *Focus in High School Mathematics*: *Reasoning and Sense Making* (NCTM 2009), continued to promote this focus on content and practices, and the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and Council of Chief State School Officers [NGA Center and CCSSO] 2010) later built on them.

Rigorous standards, along with increased knowledge and implementation of research-informed instructional practices summarized in *Principles to Actions: Ensuring Mathematical Success for All* (NCTM 2014) have contributed to a positive long-term trend since 1990 in mathematics learning at both the elementary and the middle school levels, as measured by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP; National Center for Education Statistics [NCES] 2015).

Despite an increase in the percentage of high school students enrolling in upper-level mathematics courses over the last three decades (Dossey, McCrone, and Halvorsen 2016), high school NAEP scores have remained essentially flat for the past decade (NCES 2016), and fewer than 50 percent of U.S. high school graduates in 2016 were considered ready for college-level mathematics work, as measured by their ACT mathematics scores (ACT 2016). Even more disturbing, the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) showed that U.S. high school students trailed their international peers, on average, in mathematical literacy, defined as the "capacity to formulate, employ, and interpret mathematics in a variety of contexts ... to describe, explain, and

predict phenomena (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD] 2016, p. 28). In addition, evidence indicates that U.S. young adults lack not only the quantitative and problem-solving skills necessary for success in the workplace and postsecondary education but also the numeracy and problem-solving skills necessary for "meaningful participation in our democratic institutions" (Goodman, Sands, and Coley 2015, p. 5).

Most critically, a significant percentage of high school students do not have access to the mathematics that they need either for their personal or for their professional adult lives. This issue of inequity in mathematics education—seemingly intractable over many years—makes it essential to initiate a serious discussion among a variety of stakeholders to achieve the critical mass necessary to catalyze change in high school mathematics. All students must have the opportunity to obtain an education in mathematics that will serve them well, regardless of their interests and ambitions.

Mathematics education at the high school level is part of a complex system of policies, traditions, and societal expectations. This system and its structures—school and district policies, practices, and conditions that either support or impede student learning of mathematics—are what need to be critically examined and improved. Therefore, improvements to high school mathematics will necessitate the engagement of all stakeholders to reexamine longstanding beliefs, practices, and policies that are impeding progress. *Catalyzing Change in High School Mathematics: Initiating Critical Conversations* is a call to action to all individuals with a stake in high school mathematics, inviting and urging them to embrace and participate in the serious conversations that must take place to bring about and give support to necessary changes in high school mathematics. These individuals include school, district, and state administrators; instructional leaders and coaches; classroom teachers; counselors and curriculum and assessment developers; high education administration and faculty; and policymakers at all levels.

Key Recommendations

Catalyzing Change identifies and addresses critical challenges in high school mathematics to ensure that each and every student has the mathematical experiences necessary for his or her future personal and professional success. To address these critical challenges, Catalyzing Change makes four key recommendations and presents the Essential Concepts for high school mathematics to identify the mathematics needed be each and every student.

Key Recommendation: Each and every student should learn the Essential Concepts in order to expand professional opportunities, understand and critique the world, and experience the joy, wonder, and beauty of mathematics.

Much of the discourse surrounding mathematics education and standards has centered on students' preparation in mathematics and statistics for postsecondary education or a career. Although these goals are clearly important and will remain so, *Catalyzing Change* underscores the fact that other purposes of mathematics education are also important. Students should leave high school with the quantitative literacy and critical thinking processes needed to make wise decisions in their personal lives. Students should be able to determine whether or not claims made in scientific, economic, social, or political arenas are valid. Students should have an appreciation for the beauty and usefulness of mathematics and statistics. And students should see themselves as capable lifelong learners and confident doers of mathematics and statistics. Never have the broader aims of mathematics education been more important than they are today, when mathematics underlies much of the fabric of society, from polling and data mining in politics, to algorithms targeting advertisements to groups of people on social media, to complex mathematical models of financial instruments and policies that affect the lives of millions of people.

To support these purposes for learning mathematics, *Catalyzing Change* offers forty-one Essential Concepts in the domains of number, algebra and functions, statistics and probability, and geometry and measurement that each and every student should learn. As shown in figure 1, the Essential Concepts are organized into areas of focus within the domains, except in the domain of number, since at the high school level, concepts in number are typically woven into content and instruction in the other domains.

Essential Concepts in High School Mathematics

Essential Concepts in Number

Essential Concepts in Algebra and Functions

Focus 1: Algebra

Focus 2: Connecting Algebra to Functions

Focus 3: Functions

Essential Concepts in Statistics and Probability

Focus 1: Quantitative Literacy

Focus 2: Visualizing and Summarizing Data

Focus 3: Statistical Inference

Focus 4: Probability

Essential Concepts in Geometry and Measurement

Focus 1: Measurement

Focus 2: Transformations

Focus 3: Geometric Arguments, Reasoning, and Proof

Focus 4: Solving Applied Problems and Modeling in Geometry

Fig. 1. Areas of focus in the Essential Concepts within the domains of high school mathematics

The Essential Concepts do not represent yet another set of standards or a list of disconnected topics to be covered. The Essential Concepts represent a distillation of the critical concepts and skills that, regardless of a state's, province's, or district's standards, students should acquire, retain, and be able to use long after high school. In outlining this critical content, *Catalyzing Change* highlights the roles of technology, reasoning and proof, and modeling, as well as the connections among the content areas. The Essential Concepts specifically address the widespread concern that high school mathematics standards lack the focus of the K–8 mathematics standards—a shortcoming that increases the difficulty that teachers have in supporting students in developing a deep foundational understanding of mathematics.

Key Recommendation: High school mathematics should discontinue the practice of tracking teachers as well as the practice of tracking students into qualitatively different or dead-end course pathways.

Current reform efforts that focus largely on standards, with some attention to improved instructional practice, are unlikely to address and alleviate equity concerns unless they also address and dismantle the conditions and system structures that stand as barriers to the creation of positive mathematical experiences for students. *Catalyzing Change* outlines three structural barriers to achieving equitable learning outcomes within educators' influence: tracking students into course pathways that do not prepare students for the continued study of mathematics; tracking teachers in ways that deny certain students access to high-quality instruction; and providing inadequate instructional supports before and during high school.

Catalyzing Change is clear that tracking students and tracking teachers are both unjust practices. Student tracking is insidious because it places some students into qualitatively different or lower levels of a mathematics course and, in some cases, puts students into terminal mathematics pathways that are not mathematically meaningful and do not prepare them for any continued study of fundamental mathematics or effective participation in democratic society. Catalyzing Change draws a distinction between tracking and acceleration, arguing that acceleration of students through shared content may be appropriate if a student has demonstrated deep understanding of grade-level or course-based mathematics standards beyond his or her current level. Furthermore, Catalyzing Change defines what constitutes demanding mathematics courses that should count toward high school graduation credits in mathematics.

Like mathematics students, mathematics teachers themselves are often tracked, with the most experienced teachers, or those who are perceived to be most effective, assigned to upper-level mathematics courses and the least experienced assigned to entry-level mathematics courses. *Catalyzing Change* recommends that, whenever possible, high school mathematics teachers in the same department have teaching assignments that are balanced to include both upper-level and entry-level mathematics courses. By balancing teacher assignments, teachers' knowledge of the overall curriculum is deepened, burnout among new teachers is reduced, and collaborative teams can be established with experienced teachers, thereby improving the overall learning experiences of students.

Rigorous standards, coupled with research-informed effective teaching practices, can help ensure that students who enter high school have the mathematics foundation necessary to succeed in the Essential Concepts. However, it would be naïve to assume that every student who enters high school has had the mathematical experiences necessary for immediate success. Therefore, *Catalyzing Change* outlines effective support structures that need to be in place, both in middle school and in high school, to help ensure that all students can successfully acquire the Essential Concepts as well as mathematics beyond the Essential Concepts.

Key Recommendation: Classroom instruction should be consistent with research-informed and equitable teaching practices.

Providing students with more rigorous instruction requires improvements in teaching practices. Because mathematics teaching involves not only supporting students to learn concepts and develop skills and understanding but also empowering students to see themselves as capable of participating in and being doers of mathematics, improvements in teaching practices must address not only ways to make mathematics more accessible to students but also ways to support students in seeing themselves as knowers and doers of mathematics.

Therefore, improvements in teaching practices must consider mathematical identity and agency as essential constructs for raising the mathematical achievement and strengthening the mathematical disposition of each and every student. The ways in which students experience mathematics have a significant impact on the ways in which they identify themselves as doers of mathematics. By implementing research-informed and equitable instructional practices, teachers can significantly improve the experiences and learning outcomes of students. To support teachers in these improvement efforts, *Catalyzing Change* uses the eight Mathematics Teaching Practices articulated in *Principles to Actions* (NCTM 2014) as a framework for making connections between high-leverage teaching practices and the development of mathematical identity, agency, and competence.

Key Recommendation: High schools should offer continuous four-year mathematics pathways with all students studying mathematics each year, including two to three years of mathematics in a common shared pathway focusing on the Essential Concepts, to ensure the highest-quality mathematics education for all students.

To maximize students' opportunities after high school and prepare them to actively engage in democratic society, *Catalyzing Change* recommends that high schools require students to enroll in mathematically demanding (nonterminal) mathematics courses every year in high school, completing four years of high school mathematics, including a mathematics course during their last year of high school. The expectation in *Catalyzing Change* is that a single curricular model would deliver the common pathway to all students in a single school setting, to ensure each and every student's access to a high-quality mathematics education while avoiding the creation of separate and unequal tracks. *Catalyzing Change* envisions that the set of Essential Concepts in a common shared pathway will provide the equitable educational experience that each and every student deserves in mathematics. *Catalyzing Change* further stresses the importance of ensuring that students' mathematics coursework beyond the Essential Concepts be determined by each student's own needs, goals, interests, and aspirations, rather than by any difference in mathematical ability perceived by anyone else.

Next Steps

Catalyzing Change in High School Mathematics: Initiating Critical Conversations is designed to open serious conversations and sustained efforts on multiple levels to engage all stakeholders in the system of high school mathematics education in the work of improving learning experiences and outcomes for each and every high school student. Catalyzing Change offers a number of specific recommendations that can be used to begin these critical conversations and a number of initial actions that teachers, schools, and districts; policymakers; and postsecondary educators can undertake.

Catalyzing Change is offered as the beginning of a long-term process. Progress toward the vision that it sets out will require sustained effort by the Council and numerous other groups over many years. NCTM will continue to support this collaborative effort through professional learning opportunities and additional publications that will provide tools and additional resources to deepen understanding of, and begin taking action on, the recommendations put forward in this publication. This work is critical for all of us to undertake, but it will not be easy, since the challenges are real and longstanding. Making a difference will require collaboration, communication, and work across diverse groups and communities. The need for change and improvement is urgent. We owe this effort not only to our students but also to ourselves as we work together to create and nurture the society we wish to inhabit.

Boot Camp Intervention (Tier 2)

Data Analysis/External Measures (MDTP)

Revisit Pathways/Placement

Curriculum Support

UPO's/Pacing Guides/CIA's Resources Release Days (District & Site Strands) **After School Content Training**

Boot Camp Intervention (Tier 1)

Rubric Grading/ Calibrate Grades

Infrastructure

Dual Web Site: Blog & Haiku

Organic Curriculum

they learned it?

MATH COACHES / TEACHERS / STUDENTS

CASSP



CASSP

PLC Focus = What do we want



Mile Marker +2% Final Exam +1% EAP

Creating a Plan for Student Success Chris Shore with Murrieta Valley USD

How will you develop and communicate the Vision?
How will you develop and implement your PLC/Data protocols?
How will you frame the dialogue around the 8 Effective Teaching Practices?
How will you assist in developing your district's Scope and Sequence?
How will you make your Math Pathways more equitable?

