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## Seattle Public Schools: Math Equity in the Middle Grades

Seattle Public Schools (SPS) is partnering with REL Northwest as it rolls out new strategies and systems to improve student outcomes in grade 7 mathematics. REL Northwest will help SPS develop a measurement system to understand if and how these new strategies are being implemented in schools, and whether they are producing improved outcomes.

Sola Takahashi, Carlos Sandoval, and Jahneille Cunningham from REL Northwest are excited to dig into this work with SPS and shared a few aspects of the partnership work that they are most excited see come to fruition:

### **What are you most excited to see happen with the SPS partners?**

We are excited to co-develop a measurement system that helps SPS partners know to what extent their initiatives are working to better support African American males in mathematics. They have many great ideas and have already been working

hard to reverse inequities in outcomes for these students, so we are excited to support them in this way.

**What outcomes are you hoping to see from this work?**

We not only hope to see a system of measures created but also to see these measures embedded in the everyday practices of teachers, coaches, school leaders, and district leaders. Ideally, it will become second nature for SPS to regularly collect data on how it is doing, make adjustments as needed, and continue to strive to improve the math educational experience for black boys across the district.

**Why should this project be important to educators, leaders, community, or policy makers?**

African American males are constantly labeled as problematic in education. This project presents an opportunity to redirect the problem and to better serve them for a change. Our partners are dedicated to changing the narrative around black boys and, equipped with the right tools, will be better prepared to provide them the education they deserve.

Additional resources for mathematics interventions from the What Works Clearinghouse can be found [here](#).

## **PreK Mathematics: Preparing Young Children for School**

Led by REL Appalachia, the early math cross-REL group has released the infographic [How Educators and Caregivers Can Create Supportive Conditions for Success in PreK-12 Mathematics](#). The infographic includes eight effective mathematics teaching practices, a framework for supporting math learning, and an extensive list of resources to help educators and families create supportive conditions for math learning. In addition, the What Works Clearinghouse has released the Pre-K Mathematics intervention [evidence snapshot](#) showing the [intervention](#) has positive effects on mathematics learning. The supplemental curriculum is designed to help preschool children develop informal mathematical knowledge and skills. The intervention is intended to be taught in the classroom with teacher-led small group activities, with parallel take-home activities.



## **National Center on Education and the Economy report:**

The National Center on Education and the Economy has recently published a report that takes a global look at ways to reimagine the teaching profession. The [Top Performers Reimagine the](#)

[Teaching Profession](#) report has identified five current and four emerging priorities in top-performing countries around the world. For each of the priorities, the report gives global examples of reimagining teaching, as well as an example from within the United States that mirrors the priority.

**The five current priorities identified in the report are:**

- Rethinking teacher preparation
- Fostering teacher collaboration
- Creating a culture of respect
- Using technology to support learning
- Empowering learner agency

**The four emerging priorities identified in the report are:**

- Empowering teacher leaders to shape policy
- Supporting learning anytime, anywhere
- Promoting learning for life
- Exploring new digital technologies

## REL Northwest Recommended Reads

### [How Texas plans to make access to advanced math more equitable](#)

In Dallas, TX, students with high math test scores are being automatically enrolled in advanced math courses in middle school. How will this opt-out, rather than opt-in, policy affect student equity in the future?

### [Making a Difference in Literacy and Math Outcomes](#)

In this blog post from the National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, read about four REL projects that are making a difference in both math and literacy outcomes by developing authentic partnerships and implementing evidence-based supports.

### [New Approaches to Community Math Nights: Overcoming Obstacles to Engage Families](#)

REL Appalachia highlights innovative ways Kentucky educators engaged not just students, but their families and communities, in math learning.

### [Addressing Math Needs in Utah's Grand County School District](#)

Read about REL West's partnership with Grand County School District in Utah as they co-developed protocols to help teachers make more effective use of data for stronger math instruction.

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