

The University of Chicago School Mathematics Project (UCSMP)

Intervention Snapshot | Primary Mathematics Topic Area

WHAT WORKS CLEARINGHOUSE™

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Mathematics skills are important for academic and workplace success. *University of Chicago School Mathematics Project (UCSMP)* is a core mathematics curriculum that includes materials and a routinized instructional approach with an option for teacher training. The curriculum uses an inquiry-based approach with a focus on active learning where students frequently engage in hands-on activities and small-group activities.

This What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) intervention report, part of the WWC’s Primary Mathematics topic area, explores the effects of *UCSMP* on general mathematics and algebra outcomes. This review focuses on studies of two *UCSMP* courses that are eligible for review under the Primary Mathematics topic area: *Pre-Transition Mathematics* and *Transition Mathematics*. *Pre-Transition Mathematics* teaches arithmetic, algebra, geometry, probability, and statistics. *Transition Mathematics* teaches more advanced arithmetic, algebra, and geometry, and connects these

areas to measurement, probability, and statistics. The WWC identified 11 studies of these two *UCSMP* courses. Three of these studies meet WWC standards. The evidence presented in this report is from studies of the effects of *UCSMP* on students—including 3% Asian, 4% Black, 61% White, and 21% Hispanic students—in grades 6 to 9 in urban, suburban, and rural school districts.

Findings on *UCSMP* from three studies that meet WWC standards are shown below. The table reports an effectiveness rating, the improvement index, and the number of studies and students that contributed to the findings. The effectiveness rating is based on the quality of the designs used in studies, whether the findings are favorable or unfavorable for the intervention, and the number of studies that tested the intervention. The improvement index is a measure of the intervention’s effect on an outcome. A positive or negative improvement index does not necessarily mean the estimated effect is statistically significant.

What Happens When Students Participate in UCSMP?

	Effectiveness rating	Study findings	Evidence meeting WWC standards (version 4.0)	
		Improvement index (percentile points)	Number of studies	Number of students
The WWC found that implementing <i>UCSMP</i>:				
May result in little or no change in general mathematics achievement	No discernible effects	+3	3	637
May result in little or no change in algebra	No discernible effects	-5	1	282

FINDINGS ARE BASED ON:

3 studies with 637 students in northeastern, southeastern, midwestern, and western states covering grades 6–9



STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS:

Gender: 51% female	Race: 39% minority	Ethnicity: 21% Hispanic
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What Does UCSMP Cost?

In a typical *UCSMP* classroom, the materials include one physical or digital text and one scientific or graphing calculator for each student, one teacher’s manual, and one set of teaching and assessment resources. With the purchase of at least 25 student editions, the publisher provides a

teacher’s edition, teaching resources, and assessment resources at no cost. The student edition costs \$69 to \$72 per student; therefore, the typical cost for a class of 25 students is \$1,800.

LEARN MORE



Read more about the *UCSMP* intervention and the studies that are summarized in this snapshot in the [Intervention Report](#). Contact the [University of Chicago School Mathematics Project](#) for additional information on implementing *UCSMP*.