Grades K–5 Meets ESSA “STRONG” Evidence Criteria

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) promotes evidence-based education programs by ensuring that programs are proven to be effective in increasing student achievement. ESSA includes four levels of evidence: strong, moderate, promising, and evidence that demonstrates a rationale. The ratings of the ESSA level of evidence reflect the quality, rigor, and statistical significance of the research study design and findings of the study.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW
Math in Focus: Singapore Math® by Marshall Cavendish® places problem-solving at the heart of mathematics and is known for its consistent and deliberate use of visual models across grade levels, which results in the ability of students to apply mathematics competently and confidently to both routine and novel mathematical situations. The program follows the pedagogical framework developed by the Singapore Ministry of Education emphasizing concept mastery, a concrete-to-pictorial-to-abstract approach, metacognitive reasoning, and the use of model drawing to solve and justify problems. The principles underlying the program are drawn from a solid base of foundational research that has identified effective approaches to mathematics teaching.

DISTRICT: Clark County School District, Nevada
STUDY YEAR: 2011–2012
STUDY CONDUCTED BY: Empirical Education

EVIDENCE CRITERIA

| Well-designed & well-implemented experimental study or Randomized Control Trial (RCT) |
| Advances in the field of mathematics education were due to the study |

STUDY EVIDENCE & HIGHLIGHTS

Math in Focus was studied in a large and diverse school district with 12 schools that varied in urbanicity and student populations. Analytic sample: • Large and diverse school district • 12 schools • Grades 3–5 • 1,641 participating students

Students using Math in Focus had significantly (p = .05) greater SAT-10 Problem Solving scores than control students, after controlling for student and teacher characteristics. There was also a marginally significant (p = .10) effect in that students using Math in Focus had greater SAT-10 Procedure scores than control students.

SAT-10 Procedures SAT-10 Problem Solving
Adjusted Mean Scores from Spring 2012

To learn more about the research behind Math in Focus, visit hmhco.com/MathinFocus

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