

EverydayMathematics® Success Stories



Kent School District Preparing All Students for Success in Mathematics

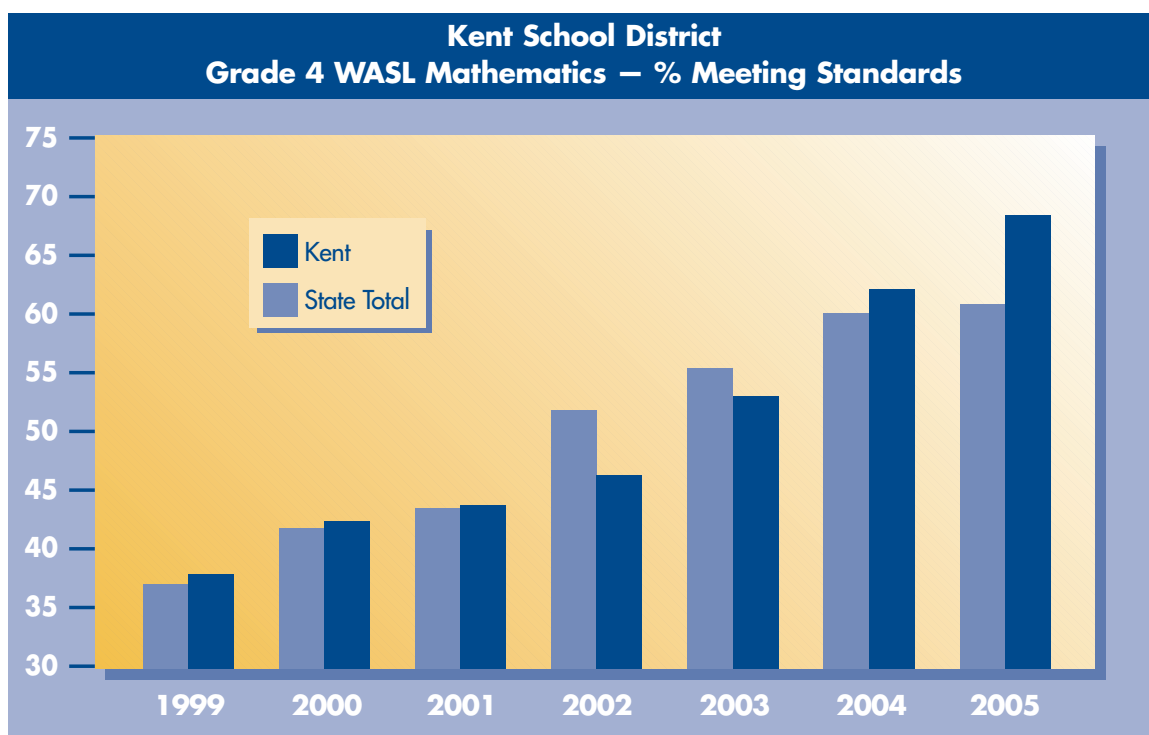
Located halfway between the cities of Seattle and Tacoma, the Kent School District encompasses six municipalities as well as unincorporated areas of King County. The district was first organized in 1869 when it served a predominantly rural dairy and farming community. The region is now known for its industry, including the Boeing Space Center, and as a major warehousing and distribution center.

The Kent School District has experienced growth throughout its history, serving more communities and an ever increasing

number of students. Today, Kent is the fourth largest school district in the state and enrolls 27,000 students in grades K-12. The district operates 28 elementary schools, 7 middle schools, 4 high schools, and an academy.

As the student population increased, diversity in the Kent School District rose as well. The student population is approximately 61% Caucasian, 15% Asian-American, 10% African-American and 9% Hispanic. Nearly 38% of the students are eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunch.

Within the district, students speak a combined total of 101 languages. The City of Kent is home to an official relocation center for Eastern European immigrants and a significant number of English Language Learners in the district arrive from countries such as Russia and Ukraine. Often, these students have strong computational math skills yet they face significant hurdles with the mathematics vocabulary while learning the English language.



Since the adoption of *Everyday Mathematics*, the percentage of Kent School District students meeting or exceeding the Washington State mathematics standards at Grade 4 has climbed to 68%, compared to 38% in 1999.

Kent School District began implementing *Everyday Mathematics* in Grades K–6 in 1999.

Supporting All Students

The mission statement of the Kent School District speaks to successfully preparing all students for their futures. At the same time, the federal No Child Left Behind Act holds districts accountable for the success of all students including those in sub-groups of the student population, such as low-income students and English Language Learners. Whether students are majority or minority however, the Kent School District recognizes the importance of differentiating instruction and supporting all learning styles.

As a K-12 curriculum coordinator in the Kent School District, Jeff Barth notes that many popular instructional strategies are often initiated within literacy. One of these strategies that Barth sees moving to mathematics instruction is the idea of varying instructional methods to support different learning styles. In order to reach students in as many ways as possible, teachers employ whole group as well as small group instruction, and include individual, partner and small group activities. It is a dynamic way of teaching that engages students and supports various learning styles.

“When teachers vary their instructional methods in math, they find that *Everyday Mathematics* is very complementary,” comments Barth. “The 3-part lesson in *Everyday Mathematics* includes opportunities for small group and partner activities, games and hands-on explorations that help all types of learners in mathematics.”

Dedicated Teachers

A key factor in the district’s success is the dedication of the teaching staff and the direct support of district specialists. Building and district staff development classes have supported teachers in their efforts to steadily refine their math instruction and improve student learning to raise achievement levels.

“As I used *Everyday Mathematics* with third-graders, I appreciated how the built-in activities and games allowed me to individualize my students’ learning,” said Barth who is also a former Grade 3 teacher.

Meanwhile, Melodi Keyes, a Grades 5–6 teacher and now Teacher on Special Assignment, said, “*Everyday Mathematics* encourages and validates children’s thinking. Students learn how math works rather than simply memorizing rules.”

Standards-Based Reporting

Washington State is a leader among states moving to a standards-based reporting system. That is, individual student performance will be measured and reported against the state’s grade-level standards, the Washington State Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs). An important first step for districts adopting standards-based report cards is the alignment of the curriculum to the state standards.

The task of aligning *Everyday Mathematics* to the Washington State EALRs is moving forward due to a leadership consortium of *Everyday Mathematics* users in the state. Educators from the Kent School District play a key role in the consortium. “Working with other districts to align *Everyday Mathematics* to the

Washington State standards has been a real win-win situation for all the districts,” notes Barth.

“In many instances, *Everyday Mathematics* exceeds the state’s grade-level expectations,” reports Barth. “The decisions on how to assess students in the *Everyday Mathematics* program using a standards-based report card are best worked with other teachers and administrators who know the program and the Washington State EALRs. By sharing our work aligning to the state standards, participating districts have been able to accomplish this goal much more efficiently.”

Results

The Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) is a means of measuring student achievement on the state’s rigorous academic standards. The percentage of Grade 4 students at Kent School District passing math standards before *Everyday Mathematics* was fully implemented was 38%. After six years, in 2005, that percentage has moved to 68%, a meaningful 30 percentage point increase and seven percentage points higher than the state average.

Furthermore, all Kent elementary schools made Adequate Yearly Progress, or AYP, in 2005. In addition, all groups of students — minority, low-income and special education — have increased scores on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning.

For additional information on the *Everyday Mathematics* program, please contact us toll-free at 1-800-648-2970 and visit our Web site at www.WrightGroup.com.

Meeting All Expectations



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