

**Collegial Circle Final Report  
2008-2009**

***Bridges in Mathematics: Teaching Kindergarten*  
P09-D-908**

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**Standards Area:** Elementary Mathematics

**Beginning and Ending Dates:** August 12, 2008 to June 1, 2009

**Purpose:** This collegial circle was formed by the Elementary Mathematics Standards Steering Committee to review the NYS curriculum document and organize it around the NCTM focal points. The Collegial circle allowed experienced users and first time users of the Bridges math program to become familiar with the useful elements of the materials and how they can be used to enhance the essential understandings of the NYS Standards and the PCSD Math Focal Points.

**Process:** The Collegial Circle met six times over the course of the 2008/09 school year. We met for two days over the summer and then three sessions throughout the school year. The teachers were able to review the NYS math curriculum document and mark each band as essential or nice to know. The group reviewed the NCTM Focal Points and captured Essential Understandings. This information was shared with the Math Standards Leader and was beneficial during the creation for the PCSD Math Focal Points for Kindergarten.

The Circle went through the entire Bridges program and made recommendations for which components are best for the essential understandings and which ones do not enhance the teaching of the NYS standards, the NCTM focal points and the PCSD Math Focal Points. The teachers were able to share some best practices that are a supplement to the Bridges Program. The teachers felt that the sharing of best practices was extremely beneficial and could be continued. This is an area that the team wished we had more time for.

The team was able to review, examine, and discuss other instructional materials that would enhance student learning and mastery of NYS standards and the focal

points. The team will be making a recommendation to the Math Standards Leader with some recommended instructional material that can fill in gaps within the Bridges Program.

The team felt that the time spent together was very beneficial, but needed more time to discuss and share some best practices.