Mc Graw Hill Education

Everyday Mathematics®

CASE STUDY

Impressive Gains in Mathematics Proficiency in a Santa Fe Elementary School

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Name

Acequia Madre Elementary

Location

Santa Fe, NM

Grades

K–6

Overview

The entire Acequia Madre school community is dedicated to ensuring that students are educationally successful, physically sound, socially adjusted, and artistically inspired. Acequia Madre is able to achieve this mission by engaging families in student life and engaging students in the fine and performing arts.

33%	1%	61%	4%	1%	32%
HISPANIC	AFRICAN AMERICAN	CAUCASIAN	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ELIGIBLE FOR FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH PROGRAM

Differentiating math instruction through a comprehensive instructional program

A few years ago, when Acequia Madre Elementary Principal Ahlum Scarola looked at his school's New Mexico state report card, it showed some troubling numbers.

"Our math numbers were a good 20 points behind our reading numbers in proficiency," says Scarola.

The school's demographics weren't the root problem. Only 5 percent of students are English language learners, so they weren't struggling with reading or translating problems. Scarola believed the problem was that their math curriculum didn't allow teachers to differentiate. "How do we help remedial students as well as those who are ready to accelerate?" Scarola wondered.

Before he became a principal, Scarola was a math teacher, and he had great success using *Everyday Mathematics*. Even though no other school in the district was using the program, he decided to pilot it across his entire K6 school in the 2015–16 academic year.

To increase math proficiency, Scarola began piloting *Everyday Mathematics 4* across his entire K6 school in the 2015-16 academic year.

Everyday Mathematics is a comprehensive mathematics program for grades pre-K through 6. Rather than relying on rote memorization, *Everyday Mathematics* curriculum focuses on bringing mathematical concepts to life with concrete, real-life examples that are meaningful and memorable. The program offers frequent practice of basic computation skills to build mastery of procedures and quick recall of facts, often through games and verbal exercises.

Every lesson in *Everyday Mathematics* includes activities designed for differentiation, whether it be for reinforcing what that day's lesson covered or for offering enrichment options for students who are ready to move on.

> *"Everyday Mathematics 4 is much heavier in reading and writing. They have fewer problems to solve and a lot more explaining to do about their thinking."*
>
> Ahlum Scarola, Principal

"We allow kids to move at their own pace, and that is a huge, engaging thing for them," says Scarola.

Everyday Mathematics 4 emphasizes the importance of knowing how a student reached an answer versus what their answer actually was.

"It asks them to do a lot more thinking and self discovery. I went into 4th-grade classes last year, and they wanted to know what the right answer was, and I wouldn't tell them," says Scarola. "They have to come to it on their own. It creates better math thinking. *Everyday Mathematics 4* is much heavier in reading and writing. They have fewer problems to solve and a lot more explaining to do about their thinking."

Increased engagement leads to increased scores

The *Everyday Mathematics 4* workbook allows students to take learning outside of the classroom.

> *"The growth we saw last year was ridiculously large."*
>
> Ahlum Scarola

"The students can keep moving. We have groups of kids working in hallways or at tables in the back of the room, and working at their own pace," says Scarola.

Everyday Mathematics 4 also makes math a hands-on activity.

"They're not just opening a book and solving problems," says Scarola. "They're measuring, they're doing manipulatives, they're weighing things, and they're working in groups."

> At the beginning of the year, 19 percent of students tested proficient in math. By the end of the school year, that number jumped to 86 percent.

At the beginning of the 2015–16 school year, 19 percent of Acequia Madre students tested proficient in math. By the end of the school year, that number had jumped to 86 percent proficient. Another measure they used was testing students at an advanced math level. At the beginning of the school year, zero students were considered advanced. By the end of the school year, 20 percent of students were working at advanced levels in math.

"The teachers worked so hard," says Scarola. "The growth we saw last year was ridiculously large."

This year, the growth was equally impressive, with all four grades outpacing the average scores for both their district and state.

NM Combined Math 2017: Percent Meets & Exceeds