

Mathematics Education Developments in WA State

Timeline and References: 1989 – Present

Where's The Math?

Revised Oct 27, 2008

www.wheresthemath.com

1989	NCTM publishes Standards (Curriculum and Evaluation Standards for School Mathematics), which encourage calculators down to kindergarten level and de-emphasize paper-and-pencil computational proficiency, catalyzing the current iteration of reform math. ¹
1993	Legislature passes Education Reform Act (HB1209) which results in development of academic standards (EALRs) and WASL. ²
1995	WA adopts EALRS (standards) written by OSPI and aligned to NCTM standards. Statewide movement toward adoption of NCTM standards-based programs (TERC Investigations, Everyday Math, Connected Math, other NSF-funded "reform" programs) begins.
2001	No Child Left Behind enacted by US Congress. In order to satisfy NCLB, OSPI repurposes WASL (which was never designed to test individual student performance, but rather schools and school districts) to not only test individual students but to serve as a graduation requirement.
2005	Thomas B. Fordham Foundation publishes The State of State Math Standards 2005, which rates WA math standards "F" (same "F" rating previously given in 1998 and 2000); WTM organizes to advocate for internationally competitive math in WA. ³
2006	NCTM publishes Curriculum Focal Points for K-8, which call for computational fluency using standard algorithms. Despite public and press perception, NCTM denies any reversal of its stance on computation. ⁴
February 2006	Rep. Glenn Anderson introduces a bill to adopt the math standards of Singapore as the WA State standards. ⁵
April 2007	Legislature passes 2SHB 1906 - Improving Mathematics and Science Education, mandating OSPI revision of WA math standards (with State Board of Education oversight) using Singapore (among others) as exemplar.
April 2007	Legislature passes ESSB 6023 - Math and Science WASL amendments: delays passing math WASL as graduation requirement until 2013, provides for use of alternative assessments for math. ⁶
August 2007	Strategic Teaching publishes Washington State Mathematics Standards Review and Recommendations, which gives WA math standards lowest possible marks in Depth, Grade-to-Grade Coherence, Measurability, Accessibility and Balance.
Sept-Dec 2007	Dana Center, University of Texas (highest bidder) contracted by OSPI for Mathematics Standards Revision. Preliminary Draft revisions widely criticized for failure to meet Strategic Teaching's report recommendations.
January 2008	Where's the Math? releases Washington Exemplary Mathematics Standards: 2008 (v1) to OSPI and legislature, providing its vision of math standards for WA comparable to high math achieving states and nations. ⁸
March 2008	Legislature passes SB 6534 in response to OSPI's failure to produce acceptable math standards, Directs SBE to retain a national consultant to analyze the February 2008 version of revised mathematics standards from SPI and make specific recommendations for changes needed to finalize the standards. ⁹
March 13 2008	National Mathematics Advisory Panel (NMAP) publishes its final report, Foundations for Success, which calls for "automatic recall" of basic math facts and computational "fluency with the standard algorithms" along with instruction leading to and supporting a true Algebra 1 proficiency. ¹⁰

August 2008	Final K-12 Mathematics Standards approved after SBE/Strategic Teaching oversight. ¹¹
August 2008	OSPI/Relevant Strategies 2008 Mathematics Instructional Materials Review & Recommendations Preliminary Draft Report: Grades K-8 ranks Singapore Math dead last among 12 elementary programs reviewed. Ranks the four top elementary math curricula (in descending order) Math Connects, Bridges in Math, Investigations in Math (TERC) & Math Expressions. Ranks the three top middle school math curricula Holt Math, Math Connects & Prentice Hall Math. ¹²
Sept 24, 2008	Bergeson makes a premature recommendation to SBE on curriculum programs for K-8, including Bridges for K-5. SBE had contracted with ST for a review of the top four books and their review was not complete.
Oct 9, 2008	Strategic Teaching releases 1) Independent Study of Washington State K-8 Curriculum Review October 2008 Draft, 2) Review of Mathematical Soundness W. Stephen Wilson, Ph.D., 3) Copy of 2008-10-9 OSPI and ST DATA. Report #2 finds Bridges and Investigations deficient in preparing students to advance further in mathematics. ¹³

REFERENCES:

¹NCTM Standards (1989): The NCTM no longer supports internet access to the (original) NCTM Standards. For information on the original NCTM Standards, see <http://wgquirk.com/TruthK12.html>

²HB1209: <http://browsedocs.leg.wa.gov/Browse%20for%20Documents%20from%201991%20to%202002/PDF%20Documents/1993-94/Senate%20Bill%20Reports/1200-1399/1209-S.SBR.PDF>

³Fordham Foundation report: http://www.edexcellence.net/detail/news.cfm?news_id=338

⁴NCTM Focal Points <http://www.nctm.org/standards/content.aspx?id=270>

⁵House Bill 1906 <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=1906&year=2007>

⁶ESSB 6023 <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=6023&year=2007>

⁷Strategic Teaching WA State Mathematics Standards Review and Recommendations: <http://www.sbe.wa.gov/documents/WAFinalRecommendationsMath8-30.pdf>

⁸Washington Exemplary Math Standards <http://www.wheresthemath.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2008/02/washington-exemplary-mathematics-standards-revision-2.pdf>

⁹SB6534 <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=6534&year=2008>

¹⁰Foundations for Success: The Final Report of the National Mathematics Advisory Panel <http://www.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/mathpanel/report/final-report.pdf>

¹¹Final WA K-12 Mathematics Standards <http://www.k12.wa.us/CurriculumInstruct/Mathematics/pubdocs/K12FullMathFinalStandards.pdf>

¹²OSPI/Relevant Strategies 2008 Mathematics Instructional Materials Review & Recommendations Preliminary Draft Report: Grades K-8 http://www.sbe.wa.gov/documents/OSPIIMRPreliminaryReport_000.pdf

¹³Strategic Teaching reports of October 9, 2008 <http://www.sbe.wa.gov/documents/ST20WA20CURRICULUM20REVIEW20unlocked.pdf>
<http://www.sbe.wa.gov/documents/ReviewofMathematicalSoundness.pdf>
<http://www.sbe.wa.gov/documents/Copyof2008-10-9OSPIandSTDATA.pdf>