



***California has an opportunity to dramatically change the way it teaches math.***

Mathematics instruction in California can be more effective and equitable. In many CA districts, current teaching practices have resulted in [only one-third](#) of students scoring proficient in math on standardized measures across the state. Additionally, most students are [being pushed out](#) of high-level pathways at a young age. Lessons are often based on routine tasks taught with outdated methods, using narrow, procedural questions. This has had real consequences. Today, [less than half](#) of California students satisfy A-G requirements, thus limiting their choices and opportunities for college and careers. California has insufficient educators qualified to work in STEM. It has to [hire thousands](#) of people from other countries to address needs every year.

Math education has historically been a gatekeeper to college and career success, preventing first-generation college-bound students, Black and Latine students, students with disabilities, and low-income immigrants from gaining entry to 4-year colleges and universities and high-paying STEM careers.

These programs are part of a [legacy of inequitable educational programs](#) which use standardized tests and gifted programming to [exclude Black](#) students from gifted classrooms and [relegate English Learner students](#) into low-level educational pathways at an early age. These tests, often given in elementary school, have been used to sort and label students as those who are "good at math" and those who are not, and often determine who and who are not "college material."

**The revisions to the framework offer a *better way* to teach mathematics.**

- Students will be taught through rich, engaging problems highlighting mathematical ideas and connections.
- Pathways will be opened up so more students can learn algebra and take higher-level math coursework.
- A mathematics course sequence that allows for more student choice. Students will be able to pursue a variety of pathways and choose rich and challenging courses that enable them to advance as their interests and aspirations evolve.
- Replacement of outdated tracking methods that segregated students into low-level remedial classes - with acceleration and enrichment opportunities open to more students.



Schools have been implementing the ideas in the framework for many years, based on [extensive scientific evidence](#), and have shown [higher and more equitable outcomes](#).

**Because of the framework's focus on opening pathways for students who have traditionally been excluded from higher-level math instruction, it has been the target of a well-funded misinformation campaign.** For example, organizations like the [Independent Institute](#), a dark-money Koch donor network-funded organization, cite complaints that align with other right-wing attacks on educational justice. This right-wing think tank report makes unfounded claims, deriding the framework for focusing on "environmental and social justice," "trauma-informed pedagogy," and "contributions that historically marginalized people have made to mathematics."

Right-wing pundits have perpetuated harmful narratives blaming racial and socioeconomic disparities in gifted and talented math instruction and poor math performance on students' aptitude, motivation, and God-given math ability. These detractors argue for ineffective and outdated math practices and offer no solutions. They promote parental fear by using dog whistles that equate innovative and equitable approaches to effective mathematics instruction with "dumbing down" the curriculum. They repeat false talking points stating the CA Mathematics Framework mandates removing algebra from middle school instruction. These statements are both inaccurate and untrue.

**Decades of research and practice have demonstrated there are better models for math instruction.** Methods that are creative, inclusive, culturally responsive, challenging, and affirming for all students and that engage students more effectively. Strategies that have demonstrated results in allowing students to make meaning, think critically, and progress at their own pace.

The revised framework was designed by a committee of 20 elected educators and five writers and has gone through a two-year process of [public comments and revisions](#). As of April 2023, *over 66 organizations and 2,800 educators, researchers, and parents signed a letter of support* for the California Math Framework.



They include:

- The California County Offices of Education
- The California Mathematics Council
- The National Council for Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)
- The National Council for Supervisors of Mathematics (NCSM)
- Just Equations
- TODOS – Organization for Excellence and Equity in Mathematics
- Education Trust-West
- Center for Equity for English Learners at Loyola Marymount University
- California Partnership for Math and Science Education

***Don't let outsiders' money and political agendas determine the future of California and its children!***

Right-wing interests are investing millions of dollars to dismantle progress made by parents and educators working hard to make CA public schools more effective and equitable for *all* students and especially those who have historically been excluded in high-level math instruction. We see a similar backlash in the ever-increasing attacks on inclusive education in other content areas such as [teaching true history](#), [banning diverse books](#), and targeting [LGBTQ-inclusive](#) practices. These detractors offer no solutions and instead argue we should go back to an education system that has a demonstrated track record of failure for a majority of our students.

On July 12-13th, the CA School Board [will be taking up](#) a long-awaited decision to adopt a revised math framework. Add your name to the growing list of organizations and educators who are standing up for education equity! The State Board of Education is encouraging public comment via this form on its website by 12:00 noon on Friday, July 7, 2023. [Click here](#) to send an email sharing your support!