



PENCIL Foundation: Math Partners Program

Interim Report 2009-10

Overview

Midway through the ninth year of the Math Partners Program, PENCIL Foundation continues to support math proficiency while providing mentorship to struggling students in Nashville public schools. Math Partners volunteers work intensively with students whose math scores are falling below the national norm. Weekly sessions consist of interactive problem-solving and activities designed to develop students' conceptual knowledge, increase fundamental math skills, and foster enjoyment of mathematics. A student's interaction with a Math Partner provides an effective role model, helping to nurture a child's personal as well as intellectual well-being.

PENCIL Foundation recruits, trains and places volunteers in elementary and middle schools throughout the county-wide district of 76,000. Math Partners meet weekly with a group of up to four students and help students build essential math sense while strengthening math skills.

Evaluation:

Success of the program is demonstrated by improved math achievement scores for students who participate in 8 or more Math Partner sessions as measured on the state-mandated TCAP test scores and on the interim measurements of ThinkLink Test Scores.

Outcomes:

- A total of 115 volunteers served as Math Partners in Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools during the fall of 2009
- A total of 448 elementary and middle school students from grades 3 through 8 received individualized help in the form of weekly 45-minute Math Partner tutoring sessions
- A total of 10 work-study students from 7 area colleges and universities served as Math Partners, providing extended hours of instruction to more than 100 students
- This past fall, Math Partners incorporated 6 Belmont University students who performed a math service-learning tutoring project at two Metro schools
- A local area church has partnered with J.T. Moore Middle School to provide 24 after-school Math Partners volunteers, fortifying a strong community presence at the school
- 19 ELL volunteers worked with a number of Spanish-speaking and other students with limited English proficiency, including 4 Math Partners volunteers who tutored among the 43 students at the International Newcomer's Academy
- The Meharry-Vanderbilt Student Alliance remains a supporter of Math Partners in providing tutoring and mentorship opportunities for medical, dental, and graduate students

Program Funding

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