

California Students Need High-Quality Instructional Materials in Math

What's at Stake: Math is more important than it's ever been. It intersects with every aspect of modern life—from understanding algorithms to navigating the economy and personal finance decisions, today's students need strong math skills to succeed now and in the future.

Unfortunately, the Nation's Report Card shows that California lags behind the national averages in math performance, and our students still aren't achieving at pre-pandemic levels in math, putting their future success in jeopardy.¹

High-Quality Materials: A Tool for Improvement: One of the best, proven tools to increase math scores and improve student outcomes is **high-quality instructional materials** (HQIM): resources that are content-rich and proven to enable all students' learning. It's also critical that **teachers receive training aligned to these quality curricula**.

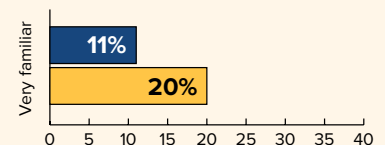
However, our education leaders are missing out on opportunities to identify and adopt HQIM—just 11% of district leaders and principals in California are “very familiar” with HQIM and only 11% also say that all of their teacher trainings are aligned with their math curriculum.²

What Families Can Do: As California leaders are reviewing math curricula and making choices about the materials teachers will use in the coming years, now is the time for California families to talk with education leaders about HQIM. Families can:

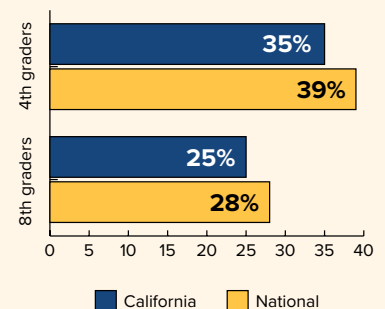
- Ask their school and district leaders about the math materials adoption process in the district—such as how the district defines HQIM and how they plan to evaluate potential math materials for adoption
- Advocate for leaders to consider the aspects of math instructional materials that matter most to families—such as promoting all students' access to grade-level content
- Voice their support for teachers to receive strong professional learning aligned to high-quality curriculum



Education leaders very familiar with HQIM



Percent of students proficient in math



1 U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2024 Mathematics Assessment

2 Gallup, Inc. (2025, April 16). Gallup Math Matters study. Gallup.com. <https://www.gallup.com/analytics/658517/math-matters-research.aspx>



Learn more about HQIM and how they can make a difference for your schools and children here:

<https://west.edtrust.org/resource/defining-high-quality-instructional-materials-for-mathematics-centering-the-assets-and-needs-of-multilingual-learner-and-english-learner-students/>