

Talking Points

Connected Math Program Used at Graham has Been Twice Disapproved By the State as Not Meeting State Standards

This means that many people reviewed the material, including classroom teachers, curriculum experts, professional mathematicians, etc., and specifically found the Connected Math Program to be BELOW standards.

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/cfir/math/ab2519re.pdf> (See programs that were NOT adopted for 1999, page 21 of the report); <http://www.cde.ca.gov/cfir/math/97report.html> (This is the 1997 Follow-up Adoption of Basic Instructional Resources in Mathematics, see “Programs Not Adopted.”).

Mathematicians and Scientists Have Publicly Denounced Connected Math Program

Consider that people in the university math and science community, and many in the high tech community are well aware of the Connected Math Program. It was highly publicized that David Packard paid for a letter critical of the Connected Math Program (and similar programs) to be printed in the Washington Post (and it was in other papers across the country). About 220 mathematicians, scientists, Nobel prize winners and Fields Medal Winners (highest award in math), and chairs of Math Departments of major colleges and universities signed this letter objecting to Connected Math Program. They certainly don't want it for their children, and they will publicly say so. The letter is at <http://www.mathematicallycorrect.com/riley.htm>

Schiff-Bustamante Funds - Schiff-Bustamante is a state textbook fund. One billion dollars was appropriated over a four year period to provide every student with a standards-aligned textbook, thus giving state-wide equal opportunity to educational excellence. These funds can only be spent on standards-aligned textbooks. This 2000-01 school year is the third year of the four year span of this legislation. There is no indication that there will be any more supplemental funding to purchase standards-aligned textbooks when Schiff-Bustamante funding ends next year. Schiff-Bustamante was supplemental to the Instructional Materials Fund, the regular, ongoing, textbook fund, which provides much less money (less than \$30 per student).

California Math Content Standards - New state standards came in 97/98 school year and they are competitive with Asian and European math standards. See Fordham Foundation Report - <http://www.edexcellence.net/standards/math/math.htm>

New Textbooks were approved by the State in January 2001 - Textbooks align with new state standards and are from major educational publishers. Publishers were given the opportunity to raise the content level for each grade and they included practice, testing, word problems and challenge problems that align with state standards. This adoption is through 2007.

Earlier Adoption - Textbooks were also approved in 1999 under special emergency legislation called A.B. 2519 adoption. Los Altos school district adopted its K-6 program under this adoption: McGraw Hill SRA. This adoption goes through 2003. Crittenden's middle school uses Glencoe program is from this earlier emergency textbook adoption.

A.P.I. - stands for Academic Performance Index - state gives money to schools whose students do better on testing from year to year. State looks at all ethnic and low socioeconomic groups to make sure that all subgroups are improving their scores. So it is important to have standards-aligned, state approved textbooks to do well on Standards Based Tests.

Standards-Based Tests -Each year California children will be taking Standards-Based tests that align to the content of the state's Math Content Standards. School ranking will be determined in part by how children do on these tests.

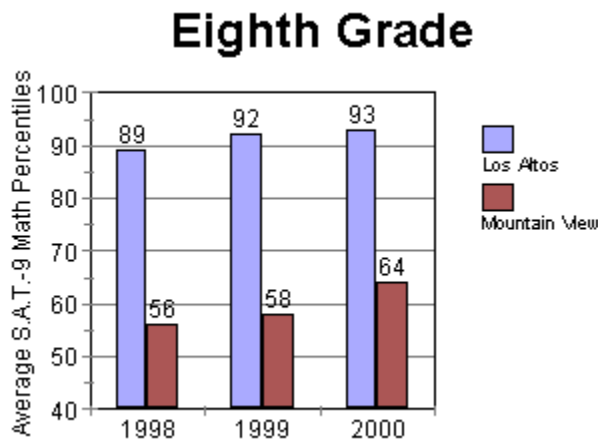
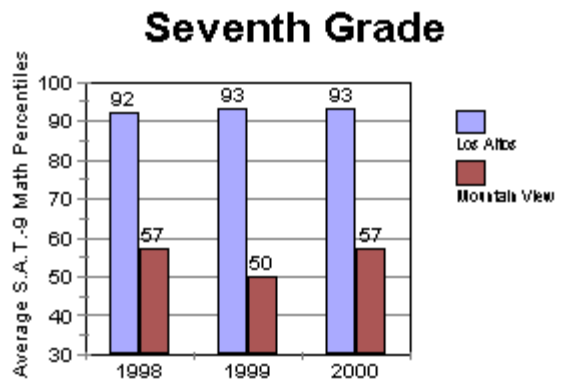
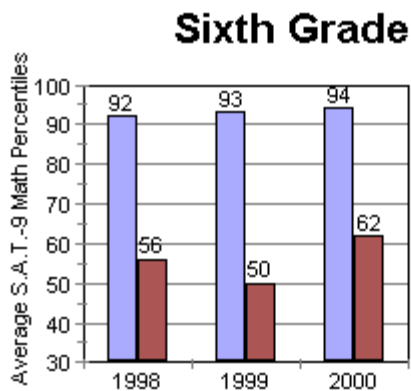
SAT-9 Testing - Before developing the Standards Based Tests, the state used nationally normed, standardized SAT-9 tests to evaluate and compare schools. SAT-9 was first given in spring 98. SAT-9 will be supplementary to Standards-Based tests.

California High School Exit Exam - California has instituted a new high school exit exam that aligns to state standards.

Professional funds - Professional training funds are dependent on using state approved texts.

K-5 pilot - MVSD has agreed to pilot and use state approved texts for **K-5 only**.

High School Preparation and Ninth Grade Math Placement - Mountain View students attend high school with Los Altos students. We are one high school community. Here's the comparison of SAT-9 average math percentiles at the middle school level:



Grade	Los Altos' Average Math Percentiles on the S.A.T.-9			Mtn. View's Average Math Percentiles on the S.A.T.-9		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
6th grade	92	93	94	56	50	62
7th grade	92	93	93	57	50	57
8th grade	89	92	93	56	58	64