

# Daily Core Mathematics Instruction

Model Policy | Frequently Asked Questions | 2024

## What is Daily Core Mathematics Instruction?

Consistent, daily mathematics instruction is vital for providing all students with a strong math foundation. Despite this, only one state, [Alabama](#), ensures that schools prioritize a daily dedicated block of uninterrupted instructional time for math teaching and learning in the daily schedule. When states prioritize a set amount of daily instructional time, it ensures that all K-8 students have access to grade-level math expectations and provides time for personalized learning and/or remediation.

## How much time should students spend learning mathematics each school day?

Students in countries who consistently perform well on international math assessments have an average of [60 minutes per day \(300 minutes per week\)](#) for math instruction. In addition to core instructional time, students should have an additional dedicated block of 30 minutes, 3 times per week for personalized interventions when needed.

## What are targeted interventions?

Targeted interventions are programs that extend learning for students who show mathematical strengths or provide enrichment for students who need support. Targeted interventions can include but are not limited to re-teaching in small groups, additional time for deeper exploration, additional practice, and one-to-one learning opportunities to, for example, correct misconceptions about mathematical understandings. Targeted interventions can take place during school hours or through after school and summer school programs. When used intentionally, digital math programs can be a powerful tool to support targeted interventions but should not be the only way students receive math intervention or instruction. States should ensure that interventions are:

- Evidence-based and aligned to state standards,
- Led by highly qualified math teachers with proper math credentialing, and
- Provided both during the school day and/or before or after school based on student and family needs.

## Are other learning opportunities outside of the school day important?

Yes! States should ensure students have additional opportunities outside the classroom for extended learning and enrichment, such as summer programs, high-quality tutoring and peer tutoring. While all students should be eligible for these opportunities, schools should prioritize students who need additional support.



### Spotlight on Alabama

The [Alabama Numeracy Act](#) is the first policy in the nation to mandate a 60-minute dedicated daily block of math instruction for all students in K-5. Additionally, the Numeracy Act prioritizes additional time during or outside of the school day for mathematics intervention when students show a need for support.

## Learn More

ExcelinEd [Comprehensive K-8 Mathematics Policy](#)

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