

Questions from the CMS Northeast LC meeting
Answered by Drew Polly

*These responses do not reflect CMS, and are the opinion of Drew Polly at UNC Charlotte. Drew Polly is not an employee of CMS, and is voluntarily supporting the district's implementation of Investigations. Drew can be reached at drew.polly@uncc.edu

What do I teach in Unit 4 for 4th grade?

** Refer to the district pacing guide- <http://elemath.pbworks.com/Pacing>. Teach all of it and supplement with Tiling and Fencing and other materials.

How much of unit 4 do we teach for third grade-confusing messages

**Refer to the district pacing guide- <http://elemath.pbworks.com/Pacing>. Perimeter provides a real-life context for length (Investigation 1). Investigations 2 and 3 help to lay the foundation for multiplication. If they are left until after the EoG, there's no harm done, but time is allocated in the pacing to teach it.

When will a comparison guide be made for 2-5? NCSCOS and Essential Standards

**2nd grade will be done by the end of the month. Drew Polly is working on it. Gr. 3-5 is not needed until 2010-2011 for transition and 2011-2012 when the EoG reflects the new standards. This will be done by August, 2010.

Could we review units for 3-5 and have one master site or list of those to skip.

**I'm unsure what this question is asking. The district pacing guides reflect what you should and should not teach based on the EoG tests. I can work on developing a master list, but the pacing guide for each grade has that information.

Pacing guides-have they changed again or where are current ones to be found?

**All changes are posted on the Elemath website- <http://elemath.pbworks.com/Pacing>. 3rd Grade has had a few things added to the "Also Include" column due to feedback from some learning community personnel.

Can we please have any addendums or changes noted ahead of teaching time?

**As the need for edits come up, Drew Polly is making them on the Elemath website. The 'significant' areas to supplement and modify are noted in the pacing guide and haven't changed since August.

We need to know all information and who sends it out. Is it Angie Larner, Drew Polly or Barb Bissell?

**Drew Polly is voluntarily serving the district with these supporting documents. Angie Larner is maintaining the CMS wiki. Drew and Angie are in constant communication to make sure that everything is updated in both locations. Both websites are good places to access. The CMS wiki has information specific to the district, while Drew's Elemath site has CMS resources, and other resources for mathematics teaching and learning.

I am not sure which place to find what CMS expects?

** The CMS wiki has information specific to the district, while Drew's Elemath site has CMS resources, and other resources for mathematics teaching and learning.

Who is support and do I have to go from site to site if changes occur?

** The CMS wiki has information specific to the district, while Drew's Elemath site has CMS resources, and other resources for mathematics teaching and learning.

Could there be an update on grading the assessments with rubrics and converting the grades for NC Wise?

**Rubrics and assessments will be edited with suggested point totals when the Fall 2009 semester ends. Drew has not had time to work on this arduous task.

How can we add more grades to make quarterly grades more fair?

**Suggestions to "add grades" should be made by your grade level and discussed in detail. Grades should reflect performance on tests, quizzes, classwork, projects and homework, if deemed appropriate.

How do we address missing objective items?

**Every NCSCOS has been accounted for in the "Also include" column on the pacing guides. If there are gaps that you perceive, please e-mail Drew- drew.polly@uncc.edu

Is there a way to share assessments within the district. Planning math has become extremely time consuming.

**Drew is more than happy to post on the Elemath website assessments that are e-mailed to him. Send them please!

Concern-that 4th graders are not preparing students well enough for EOG objectives. Will students be "okay" in spring?

**In Buncombe County (Asheville), EoG scores have continuously gone up in schools where Investigations has been taught well with appropriate supplementation. Schools are encouraged to occasionally expose students to EoG-style items through released test items from DPI, the DPI Indicators, and the Investigations ExamView. Please be cautious to not over-test your students. Also, some EoG prep material is not rigorous and can possibly give false-positives, meaning that students do well on EoG prep but do not do well on the actual test.

Suggestions for how to manage pacing and getting reteaching without falling behind.

**Wow....that could be a long one ☺. Examine the *Mathematics in this Unit* section to identify if mastery is expected and if the concepts will be revisited during the school year- in many cases they will be. Reteaching and intervention should be done appropriately- the idea of direct, teacher-centered instruction will not be effective. Small group and individual teachers, in which teachers facilitate instruction and continue to support students' understanding is recommended.

What one location can I go to that is the CMS standard for pacing and any changes made to the curriculum?

** The CMS wiki has information specific to the district, while Drew's Elemath site has CMS resources, and other resources for mathematics teaching and learning. I (Drew) is unsure what is in DocuShare and Riverdeep.

What parts of 3rd grade , Unit 4 Inv 3 sessions should not be taught?-Due to area not being an obj. in 3rd grade.

**Area lays the foundation for multiplication in the next book. It is important. Moving it to after the EoG does not do any harm, but time was made in the pacing guide to teach it during Unit 4. If you skip it, students will be adversely affected in 4th Grade.

Can we receive any important updates, training, pacing changes and or lesson elimination/suggestions in a direct email rather than on a WIKI?

**I (Drew) update my wiki. The use of a direct e-mail is reserved for Barb and Angie. If there is a math emergency I will e-mail the facilitator list.

Will winter and future formatives be based on NCSCOS?? Investigations?

**Since I have no influence over this, I (Drew) cannot provide an answer. However, my interpretation is that the intent of the formatives is to provide a rigorous assessment on concepts in Investigations that are aligned to the NCSCOS. The first quarter assessment was challenging to avoid false-positives, giving teachers the impression that their students did not need to revisit content since students did so well.

Where is the reteaching component scheduled?

**Reteaching and interventions should occur periodically during the unit. Attend to the *Mathematics in this Unit* to determine if mastery is expected. Reteaching and interventions can occur at various points when teachers see times naturally occurring in the school year. Be cautious that direct instruction does not counteract the spirit of *Investigations*.