

Destination Math

Program Description

Destination Math is a technology-based program for pK-12 students available in English and Spanish. Computer-based instruction helps students master mathematics content using computer animation and real-world problems which maintain interest levels and motivation. The program accelerates learning and is aligned to the New York State Core Curriculum and the City's core curriculum. Destination Math uses assessments based on the New York State standards and provides sequenced, prescriptive instruction that addresses individual needs.

The program allows teachers to assess student needs, use data to provide computer-based instruction, and enable students to comprehend mathematics content and learn the necessary skills. Once an individual's needs are identified using the program, it then provides prescriptive instruction. This instruction begins with the necessary prerequisite knowledge and then introduces new concepts and skills. Students can use the program on any computer (at home, school, or the neighborhood library). This academic intervention program is being used for struggling ELLs, Students with Interrupted Education (SIFE) and long-term ELLs in New York City schools.

Program Implementation

A minimum of 90 minutes per week is recommended for Destination Math to be effective. This can be accomplished during the regular school day in a scheduled mathematics classroom or extended day program. The program is available in both Spanish and English and has been used effectively for newcomer ELLs of diverse language backgrounds to accelerate language acquisition in conjunction with the development of mathematical skills. It is suggested that schools work with Destination Math consultants to ensure that modules are aligned with students needs. Also, Destination Math consultants will work with schools to upload student data into a central DOE server.

Professional Development

For schools launching a new program, Destination Math provides an initial off-site professional development session for all teachers and administrators involved in implementation. At this session, participants are introduced to the basic software, the benchmark assessments, class roster creation and successful instructional strategies. Schools are encouraged to include parent coordinators in professional development so that they can promote family connections to mathematics and conduct parent orientations, whenever possible, at program sites. Subsequent onsite visits are provided by the Destination Math staff to assist with program implementation, model lessons, and address any program management concerns.

Infrastructure and Cost

Schools must have a computer lab or laptops for each student with reliable internet access and headphones. To be effective, students should use Destination Math for a minimum of three periods per week during the school day, or a minimum of two periods per week with additional time in after school programs and/or Saturday Academies. It is recommended that in after school programs, students be assigned to their regular classroom / mathematics teacher, whenever possible, to provide instructional continuity. It is also recommended that the mathematics teacher remain with the class during time in the computer lab or with a computer teacher. Contact a representative from Destination Math (see below) for specific costs or visit FAMIS (under publisher Riverdeep at # RIV009000).

Office of ELLs liaison:

Vincent J. Altamuro, Math Curriculum Specialist
Valtamuro@schools.nyc.gov

Rachel Hoff, Coordinator of SIFE Programs
RHoff4@schools.nyc.gov

Destination Math liaison:

Raymond Borno, New York City Account Executive
rborbo@riverdeep.net
(917) 873-3423