



Santa Barbara SCHOOL DISTRICTS

720 Santa Barbara Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Phone (805) 963-4338, Fax (805) 963-1877

TO: Dr. J. Brian Sarvis, Superintendent
FROM: Robin Sawaske, Associate Superintendent for Education
DATE: January 28, 2010
RE: Update on Mastery Math Program at Monroe Elementary School

Background

Mastery Math is a program that has been in place at Monroe Elementary School for 28 years. This school year, following board adoption of the district's new math instructional materials, Monroe is no longer able to offer Mastery Math in the same way it has in the past. Parents are concerned about the elimination of the program and have voiced their concerns to district staff and board members.

There have been several meetings about Mastery Math with Monroe parents, teachers and principal, Brent Millhollen. Cynthia White and Abby Vasquez, our elementary Teacher on Special Assignment have also met with the school.

Issue

As a Program Improvement District under NCLB, we have been directed by the California Department of Education to use the state board adopted instructional materials. In the case of math, the state adopted materials that our board adopted through a teacher selection process is enVision Math. Per the district's professional development plan, also required by the state and under NCLB, our district began training all teachers in the new materials last school year.

I inquired with the state's Department of Program Improvement to get an update and more direction on the issue. I was informed that an assembly bill was passed, Assembly Bill X4 2, that suspends the program requirements for instructional materials until 2013-2014. The bill was passed for budgetary reasons to allow local school boards discretion primarily when they lack funds to purchase new instructional materials. This is not the case for math materials in our district. However, technically we now can allow older standards-based materials to be used in our classrooms. But the school must still use the core math program adopted by the Board.

Mastery Math or another non-state board approved program can be used as supplemental materials however it cannot replace the core grade level curriculum. A supplemental program is just that - supplemental. As this point, there isn't enough time in the school day to have the required hour of enVision Math and another hour of Mastery Math, which is the time needed for this program to work.

Monroe's math scores are also part of the issue. This past year, our Social Economically Disadvantaged students at Monroe did not make the NCLB Adequate Yearly Progress targets. As a result, the school now has one mark against it and may well move into Program Improvement status because of math scores. Clearly, Mastery Math is not serving all students well enough to meet the NCLB targets.

Adams Elementary School Cesar Chavez Charter School Cleveland Elementary School Franklin Elementary School	Harding Elementary School McKinley Elementary School Monroe Elementary School Open Alternative School	Peabody Charter School Roosevelt Elementary School Santa Barbara Charter School Santa Barbara Community Academy Washington Elementary School	Goleta Valley Junior High School La Colina Junior High School La Cumbre Junior High School Santa Barbara Junior High School	Dos Pueblos High School La Cuesta Continuation High School San Marcos High School Santa Barbara High School
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