

First In Math® Online Program Contributes to "Blue Ribbon" Success for Two Philadelphia Schools!

Data suggests that schools with high levels of participation in the First In Math® Online Program show larger gains in student math proficiency.

Analysis of data provided by the School District of Philadelphia over a four-year period suggests that schools with high levels of participation in the **First In Math® Online Program** see greater increases in mathematics proficiency.

Hill Freedman Middle School

One example is Hill Freedman MS, located in the School District of Philadelphia's Northwest Region. With Principal Diane Hathaway at the helm, Hill Freedman was named a "No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School" in 2006.

Hill Freedman implemented the First In Math® program during the 2003/2004 school year, and quickly attained the Number 3 spot in the PA State ranking. Their hard work paid off. When year-end Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) test scores were released, they showed 84.7% of Hill Freedman's 8th grade students scoring Proficient & Above. **This represented an incredible 41.2 percentage-point jump over the previous year.¹**

Hill Freedman students extended this high level of achievement another five percentage points in the second year of the program, when 89.7% of 8th grade students reached the

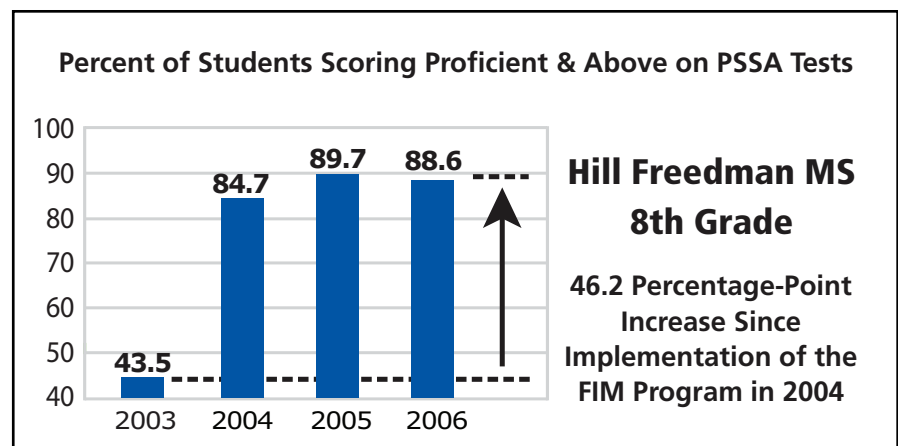


Left to right: FIM Ambassador Cred Dobson; Philadelphia School District Director of School Support Services Steve Spence; Hill Freedman MS Principal Diane Hathaway; Regional Superintendent Linda Grobman; Director of Instruction Jackie Greene and Director of Special Education John Murphy pose with the Blue Ribbon School flag and awards.

Proficient & Above benchmark. "We took great pride in knowing that Hill Freedman was the third-highest scoring school in the District on 8th-grade PSSA scores," says Hathaway.

Sustaining a high level of excellence

is not an easy task, but Principal Hathaway has established a legacy of success at her school. In the third year of the program, 88.6% of 8th grade students scored P&A on the 2006 PSSA test. What's more, the



¹ In 2006, the National Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) benchmark rose to 45% of students scoring "Proficient & Above".

school's 7th graders scored 94.9% P&A, with 78% scoring in the "Advanced" category.

Hill Freedman's phenomenal success is due in large part to the way Principal Hathaway motivates her students," says Robert Sun, creator of the FIM program. "I marvel at how masterfully she has used the First In Math® program as another tool in her arsenal to create success."

"We teach our students to visualize where they want to be, set goals for achievement and to have a strong work ethic," says Hathaway.

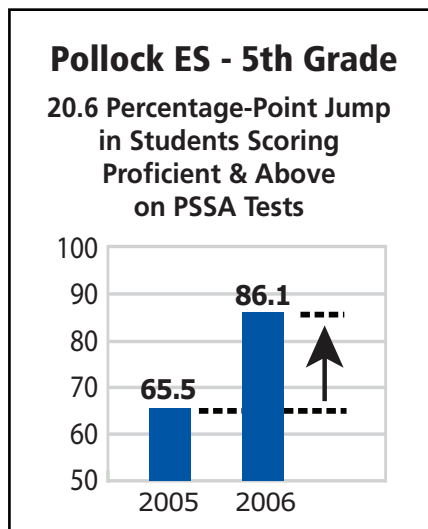
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7th graders scored 94.9%
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"It is the work ethic of the students and teachers using First In Math® that has helped us realize our vision and goal of being a 2006 No Child Left Behind - Blue Ribbon School."

Pollock Elementary School

The School District of Philadelphia's East Region is home to Pollock Elementary, a school that has fully embraced the First In Math® Online Program. Pollock's FIM 2006 statistics are impressive: Nine of the top ten players in the District are Pollock ES students.

Andrea Miller, Director of Math at



Pollock, and a driving force behind the school's FIM success, says "First in Math® is an amazing educational tool, because it teaches much-needed thinking and computation skills and raises test scores. **First In Math® generates excitement among teachers, parents and especially the children. It is a vital part of the educational process here at Pollock School.**"

Pollock experienced a large increase in students scoring Proficient & Above on the PSSA tests. By 2006, 86.1% of Pollock 5th graders were scoring at P&A levels, a 20.5% percentage-point increase from the previous year.

Third-grade results mirrored those of their 5th-grade counterparts. The 2006 scores showed that the percentage of 3rd graders scoring P&A increased 12 percentage points over the 2005 scores, to 82% P&A.

The PA Department of Education has nominated Pollock ES for National Blue Ribbon School consideration. "The announcement of the actual

winners will be made in the Fall of 2007," explains Pollock Principal Kathleen Quinn.

"We enjoyed hearing about Hill Freedman being named a National Blue Ribbon winner last year, and I believe it cannot be a coincidence that both of our schools are heavily into First In Math," adds Quinn. "We have outstanding teachers and an atmosphere that values high achievement, but definitely, positively, First In Math® is a key component of our success."

Students CAN deliver—once they are motivated to achieve. The First In Math® Online Program, developed by Suntex International Inc., draws on the company's 18 years of experience in igniting the achievement process among diverse populations. Combining the family of 24® game products with the power of internet technology has created a program with a proven track record of improving math skills and raising overall test scores. The First In Math® program is easy to implement in schools, and poses no additional load for classroom teachers.

Teachers use the program's real-time assessment to see the percentage of students mastering basic facts, the degree of students' test preparedness BEFORE tests occur and more. ■

The Blue Ribbon Award is bestowed upon fewer than 300 schools each year, honoring K-12 schools with at least 40 percent of students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve performance in accordance with state assessment systems; or score in the top 10 percent on state tests.

Learn more about the correlation between FIM and increased test scores at www.firstinmath.com, where you can read or download Case Studies such as: *Scientific-Based Research Study conducted by WestEd: Evaluation of the First In Math Online Math Program; 2004-2005 Case Study: School District of Philadelphia - YEAR TWO* and more.