

Marrying Best-in-Class Curriculum with Ongoing Professional Learning

How Franklin Special School District Paves the Way for Excellence in Mathematics

Franklin Special School District (FSSD) in Tennessee’s Williamson County is committed to excellence—for its leadership, for its teachers, and for the diverse group of 3,100-plus students it serves.

Unsurprisingly, when it comes to choosing math programs to support teaching and learning in the district, excellence is also the benchmark. To help FSSD continue its trajectory of academic success, the district’s Teaching and Learning team understands a high-quality curriculum, ongoing professional learning, and a student-first focus are all essential.

Understanding What’s Needed for a Successful Implementation

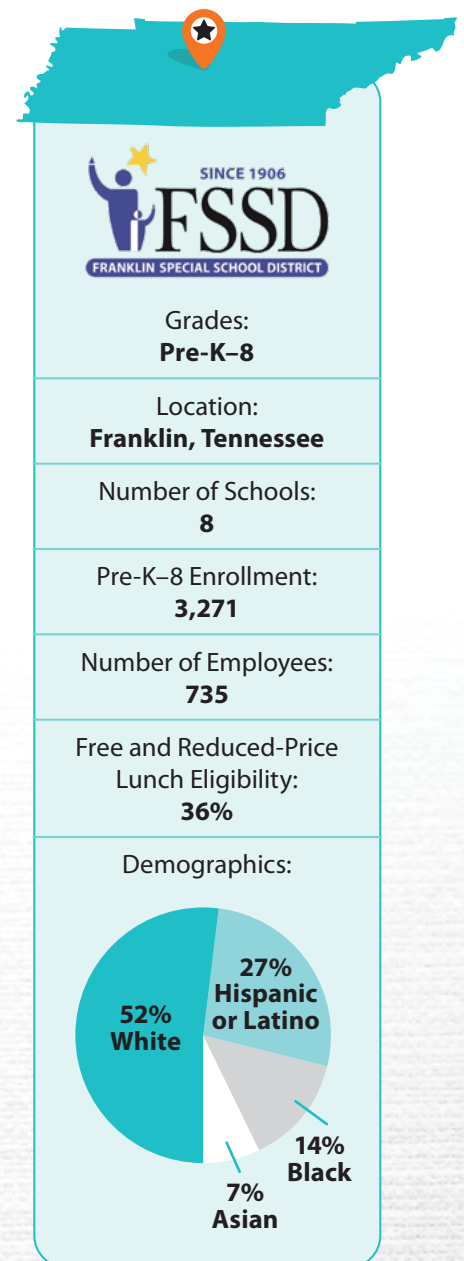
During the last textbook adoption process, the district’s adoption committee—composed of administrators, teachers, and parents—was tasked with selecting a core math program. The district sought a comprehensive program that would help drive instruction and help students master the Tennessee Academic Standards for Math.

Regardless of what program was chosen from the state-approved list, the Teaching and Learning team knew robust professional development would be needed to ensure a successful implementation.

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—Mary Decker,
Associate Director of Schools for Teaching and Learning



Providing Teachers with the Gold Standard

After a thorough evaluation, the adoption committee almost unanimously voted to implement Curriculum Associates' *Ready Tennessee Mathematics*, along with the accompanying Teacher Toolbox, across its schools. Beyond the program's ability to help students develop strong mathematical skills and habits, the Teaching and Learning team was highly impressed by the company's commitment to delivering professional development and support from the start.

"The professional learning support from Curriculum Associates is the gold standard," said Gina Looney, Ed.D., reading and RTI coordinator at FSSD. "It's timely, it's knowledgeable, and it supports the work we are doing with teachers to get to the next step."

To complement its use of *Ready Tennessee Mathematics*, the district fully implemented *i-Ready*® in 2017. This decision came after the Teaching and Learning team piloted the online program and analyzed its linking scores to the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program.

"We were missing that diagnostic piece that told teachers exactly what they needed to focus on," said Amber Whitley, instructional technology specialist at FSSD. "*i-Ready* was a natural fit for us."

"We knew we were choosing a best-in-breed program, but we didn't realize just how well it would actually align," added Josh Bracamontes, instructional technology specialist at FSSD. "In looking at the data, the growth for those classrooms in the initial pilot was crazy."

Poised for Continued Success

Since implementing these programs with fidelity, FSSD has continued to experience impressive achievement in mathematics, including high growth and high proficiency across its schools. This success, which has led to a number of state recognitions, can be attributed to a number of factors, including its focus on ongoing professional learning and developing a data culture throughout the district.

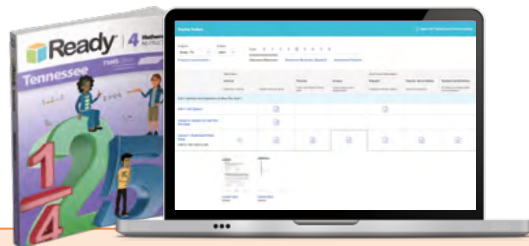
"Our principals are always looking at Curriculum Associates' data around program usage and student growth," said Summer Carlton, curriculum and professional learning supervisor. "This is a main focus in their meetings as well as in our professional learning communities. It's just part of our culture."

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—**Shelly Robinson,**
Instructional Technology Specialist

Using *Ready Mathematics* and *i-Ready* data, the Teaching and Learning team and teachers throughout the district are able to engage in collaborative dialogue targeted around the areas teachers—and students—need support in the most. "This could be about remediation or reteaching, you name it," said Carlton.

"With the data from *i-Ready*, teachers can fill in gaps and deliver truly differentiated instruction, which is a big focus of mine when working with our middle school teachers," added Shelly Robinson, instructional technology specialist at FSSD. "It's really a dream program."



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—**Josh Bracamontes,**
Instructional Technology Specialist

The wealth of instructional resources provided by Curriculum Associates is something that impresses the Teaching and Learning team and something that continually helps teachers with delivering rigorous, standards-based differentiated instruction.

“Between *Ready Mathematics* and *i-Ready*, I can’t think of a time teachers couldn’t find the resources they needed for their lessons,” said Carlton. “There’s no need for them to go searching on the internet—it’s all right here.”

Now, as the district looks toward the rest of this school year and beyond, it remains steadfast in continuing to deliver the highest-quality professional learning and resources to support its teachers and to best serve its students. “Everyone from the top down is truly invested in the ongoing success of our students,” said Carlton.

“Even with great support and programs such as what is provided by Curriculum Associates, you need district champions and a great team to make it all work,” added Bracamontes. “And that’s what we have here at FSSD.”

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—**Summer Carlton,**
Curriculum and Professional Learning Supervisor

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