

SMCAA Foundational Mathematics Curriculum

Talking Points/FAQ

What is the Foundational Math Curriculum?

The Foundational Math Curriculum (FMC) is a basic organized and articulated Kindergarten through Grade Eight math curriculum. The FMC is a living document, meant to be reviewed and adjusted by the school district curriculum and instructional teams to meet your teachers' and students' needs. It can also be used right away to begin math instruction as you begin your district math curriculum process.

What is the purpose of the Foundational Math Curriculum?

The purpose of the FMC is to provide a basic, useful instructional map for those districts in need of assistance with mathematics curriculum development. With such an emphasis on mathematics performance across the state, SMCAA wishes to lead the way in providing a clear place to start the quality math curriculum process for all member districts. This curriculum can also be used by districts as basis for review of their existing math curriculum. Many districts across the state have asked for something like the FMC for some time and it is the vision of SMCAA to provide as much help as possible in the areas of Curriculum and Quality Instruction. It is our hope that the anticipated success of the FMC will be the precursor to the creation of other content area foundations such as ELA and Science.

How was the Foundational Math Curriculum developed?

The FMC was developed by a team of volunteer writers with extensive experience as math teachers, math instructional coaches and math curriculum writers. It is a product of the work of several math curriculum documents from several sources including out-of-state and Missouri resources (i.e. Items Specifications Document) combined to produce a well-articulated, balanced curriculum. A team of reviewers were also asked to give critical feedback for overall content and process. While no curriculum is perfect, the FMC is a strong example of what a basic curriculum should contain.

What does the Foundational Math Curriculum include and not include?

The FMC *includes*:

1. Prioritized Missouri Learning Standards articulated across grade levels.
2. Math progressions noted strategically throughout the grades.
3. Units containing targets for the skills and knowledge needed for teachers to focus instruction on both procedural and conceptual learning.
4. *Sample* performance tasks, vocabulary and formative assessments (that will be regularly added as we work on curriculum throughout the year).
5. Suggested pacing guides for each grade level as a plan to cover all necessary material before the state assessment window.

The FMC does NOT include:

1. Instructional lesson plans. Your teacher cohorts should decide the “how” of instruction to meet learning goals.

2. Common or summative assessments for each unit. The “how” of instructional assessment must be up to your instructional team.
3. A suggested math resource or recommendations for resources. The “what” to use during instruction is up to your district and instructional teams. The FMC can be adjusted for use with any resource.
4. A guarantee of success in mathematics performance. The FMC is meant to be a “fulcrum” that balances instructional practice and student learning. All educational research points to many factors that contribute to positive student achievement, such as quality instruction, student learning environment and other processes and events. Without a road map to guide teaching and learning, we have no direction on how to achieve our overall achievement goals.

What format will the Foundational Math Curriculum use?

The FMC will be produced in word document format that can be easily transferred to whatever curriculum housing venue your district uses. The purpose is to provide districts with a resource and not to suggest or advertise any specific housing method. We know that many of our members use BYOC. It is our intention to provide the FMC on BYOC so that it is ready for use by those that would like to build it from there. More to come on FMC on BYOC and how to access it.

When and where will the Foundational Math Curriculum be introduced and available?

The final product will be introduced at the SMCAA First Annual Summer Curriculum Camp June 24-25, 2019 at Tan Tar A Resort at Osage Beach, MO. Specific information will be available on the SMCAA website the second week of April, 2019. Here you will get a complete overview of the curriculum by grade level, how to get started using the curriculum, and learn how to adjust and use the curriculum to best suit your needs. We will also provide training in common assessment writing and provide a process by which administrators and coaches can observe for fidelity to your curriculum. It is suggested that districts send a team of teachers/coaches/administrators to represent grades/grade spans that will share this information with their instructional team members.

Who can have access to the Foundational Math Curriculum?

The FMC is available to all SMCAA member districts through use of a specific pin number for access on the SMCAA website. If you are not currently a member of SMCAA, now is the time to join us! The cost is beyond reasonable and the benefits are worth it!

What is the cost for member districts to have access to the Foundational Math Curriculum?

The FMC is a value-added item for SMCAA members that which includes access, online updates and availability of regional/state support. Access to the FMC is meant to be a strong support to assist districts in math at NO additional cost outside membership. SMCAA is focused on providing the teaching and learning necessary for districts to build their own capacity in curriculum development. Our sincere hope is that you will not only use the FMC, but that you will attend state and regional trainings throughout the year designed to teach you how to get the most out of it.

What support can you expect with the Foundational Math Curriculum?

We all know that no matter what curriculum you produce or use, you must ensure that the knowledge and skills of the users be strengthened and maintained. This means that use of ongoing learning is critical to success.

As stated above, your FMC includes access, updates and online and regional/state support. As always, we will remain available for in-district consulting, phone conferences and email. In addition, we will provide a newsletter with an updated FAQ, useful information, math instructional tips and training information.

In order to keep the FMC useful and effective for all participating school districts, we ask that you and a team of teachers also attend at least one regional training and one state training during the year for the purpose of building capacity in curriculum and quality instruction, assessment and review.

The state training will be a part of our annual SMCAA Fall Conference, October 29-30, 2019. Here is where *Dr. John SanGeovani*, author of the series, [Mine the Gap for Mathematical Understanding](#), will present elementary and secondary math strategies suitable for all teachers and instructional leaders. We will have breakout sessions specific to FMC users.

The Math regional trainings will take place throughout the state and be specific to math instruction, assessment and review and will be conducted by FMC professionals. Locations and dates TBA. In addition, we will provide afternoon mathematics trainings following our September and March state regional meetings across the state.

Conclusion:

SMCAA is aware that many districts have already produced very effective and thorough math curriculum. However, many have either no useful curriculum or are just beginning. It is our hope that the FMC will assist districts wherever they are in the writing process.

We know that we have only touched the surface of the many questions that can be created by a mammoth project such as the FMC. We will do our best to answer questions on a regular basis. Email Dr. Janie Pyle at drjpyle@smcaa.org and she will make sure to get the answers you may need. We are excited about this project, knowing that we may have bitten off more than we can chew slowly and methodically! However, we are committed to seeing this through. Onward!