

# Missoula County Public Schools Elementary Mathematics Curriculum



Forward Thinking, High Achieving.

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Missoula County Public Schools recently adopted a new mathematics curriculum for our elementary students. The Missoula County Public Schools K-12 Mathematics curriculum aligns to the Montana Common Core Standards. The standards, which are divided into broad strands: Counting and Cardinality, Operations and Algebraic Thinking, Number & Operations in Base Ten, Number & Operations—Fractions, Measurement and Data, and Geometry, reflect essential skills necessary for life, college and career readiness and responsible citizenship in the 21st century. All students need to be skillful in math to successfully learn in school, to become productive members of society, and to achieve their full potential through life-long learning.

In 2019, the board approved the adoption of a three-part model for elementary mathematics—Ready Classroom Math as curriculum materials, i-Ready for diagnostic data, and framework to balance whole group and small group instruction.

## How does MCPS define “curriculum?”

The curriculum is the standards that we teach. It is the answer to the first question of our four questions within a Professional Learning Community - “What is it that we want our students to know and be able to do?” Once the standards are clearly defined, then the materials and resources we use to address the standards are aligned. This answers the second question of a Professional Learning Community - “How will we know if they know it?”

“The curriculum must provide clear guidance regarding the content to be addressed in specific courses and at specific grade levels. “ (Marzano et al., 2014, p. 69)

## What is a guaranteed and viable curriculum?

- Guaranteed curriculum means every student is provided the opportunity to learn a core curriculum, which provides them with the probability of success in school.
- Viable curriculum means that the necessary time is available in the day, and protected, so students will be able to learn the guaranteed curriculum.

## What are curriculum materials?

We choose to utilize common curriculum materials to promote consistency across each school, ensuring that all students are learning in an equitable educational setting. The benefit of common materials enables teachers to come together in a collaborative manner, as a Professional Learning Community, to share in best instructional and assessment practices that ensures improved outcomes for all students.

## K-5 Mathematics Model

Ready Classroom Mathematics invites students to be active participants in math class. Effective lesson design and easy instructional routines provide the structure and support that enable students to persevere, develop deep conceptual understanding, and become independent learners.

Classroom routines provide a research-based balance between whole group instruction and meaningful small group work.

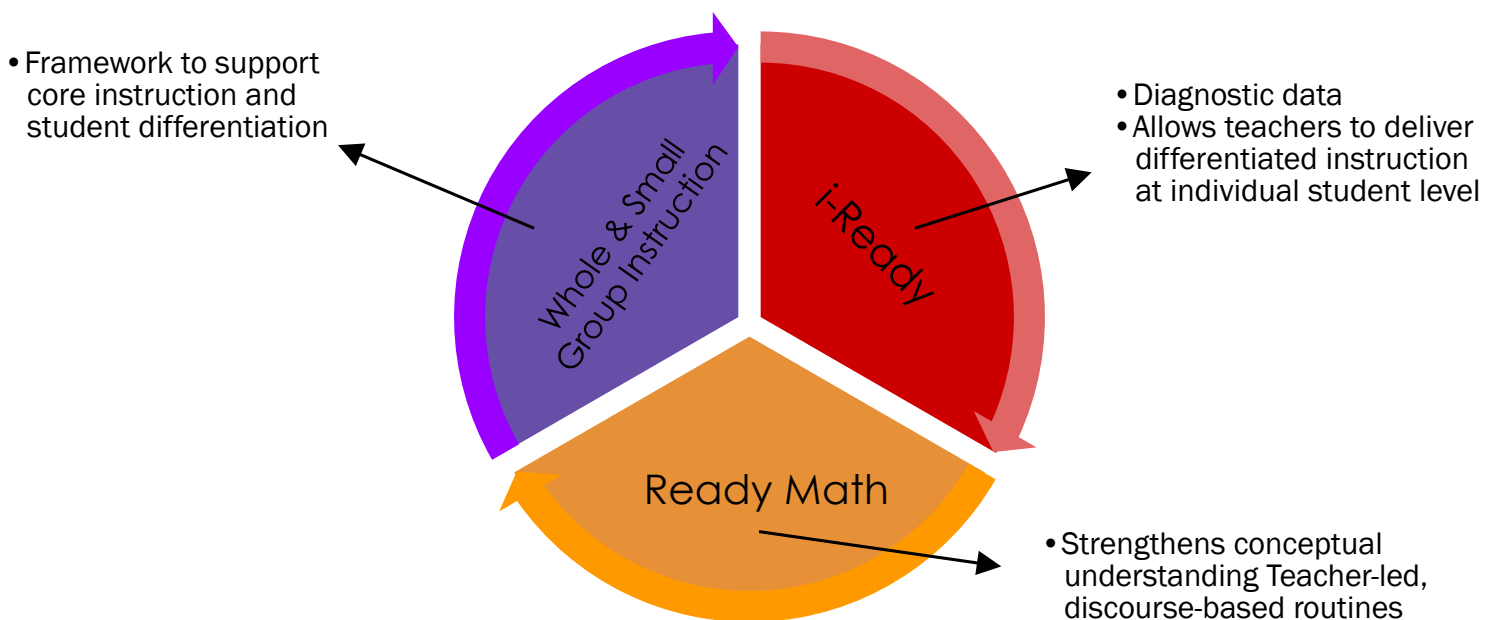
i-Ready® Online Instruction, a personalized instructional path, helps students fill prerequisite gaps and build up grade-level skills.

# Student experience in the classroom

As active participants in math class, students engage in discourse - an essential learning component in students' mathematics learning. Ready Classroom Mathematics provides a student-driven routine to allow for the learning and use of mathematical discourse tools, including words, symbols, diagrams, physical models, and technology. Classmates present, exchange, and defend their ideas with each other under the guidance of their teacher. This provides opportunity for the students to take ownership of their mathematical knowledge in a collaborative and supportive learning environment.

Teachers use data to get to know each student better and make instructional decisions that help all students reach their greatest potential. Powerful tools, like the valid and reliable adaptive Diagnostic assessment, pinpoint students' strengths and areas of instructional need. Comprehensive resources are provided to address the needs of all learners.

Ready Classroom Math prepares students for high-stakes assessments with quality practice that reflects the rigorous expectations of the standards. Rich and varied practice opportunities deepen the conceptual and procedural connection for students, helping them develop greater number sense and fluency.



In class, your student will be participating in small group discussions and activities that help them engage directly with the mathematics concepts. These discussions are designed to help students think critically, reason mathematically, and learn from each other.