

Albemarle: Providing Students an Opportunity to Learn Math Through Productive Struggle

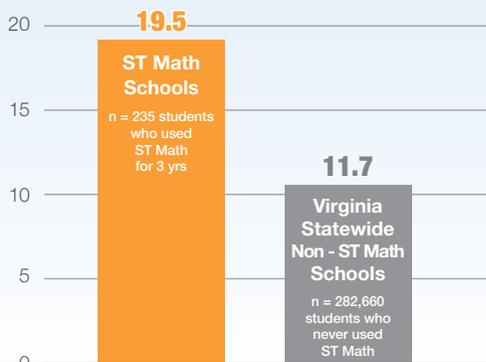
Albemarle County Public Schools serves a blend of rural, suburban and urban settings with a diverse student body of more than 13,000 students attending 26 schools and speaking nearly 80 languages. As a member of the League of Innovative Schools, a consortium dedicated to improving students' academic and career outcomes through technology and research, Albemarle has instituted a number of innovative programs to ensure success for its diverse students. One of those is ST Math.

According to the principal at one of the district's traditionally high-performing schools, ST Math has helped gifted and talented students develop their persistence and growth mindset. "Because ST Math doesn't give you directions, you have to be comfortable with failing as you struggle to figure things out," says Mark Green, Principal of Virginia Murray Elementary. "High-achievers sometimes find that challenging." The program has put a spotlight on the value of productive struggle – the active and persistent method of learning through failure – for students of all academic levels.

Matt Blundin, ACPS Lead Instructional Coach in Mathematics, says there is a correlation between ST Math usage and student math achievement. And an analysis by MIND Research Institute found that Albemarle schools that have been using ST Math for 3 years are outperforming the rest of the state – increasing the percent of students scoring Passing or Advanced on the Virginia Standards of Learning by 19.5 points, compared to 11.7 for schools in the state not using the program.

Albemarle ST Math Schools Surpasses State in Math Achievement

Growth in Percentage of Students (Grades 3-5)*
Passing or Advanced



*Virginia Standards of Learning (VSOL) for 2012-2015



"We see ST Math as a continuum resource for all students, including struggling learners and high achievers who are not used to struggling, but who develop persistence that supports problem solving when they face challenges in ST Math. The program helps us understand them better as learners. Not just in math, but overall."

— Mark Green, Principal, Virginia Murray Elementary School



Albemarle County Public Schools

Virginia



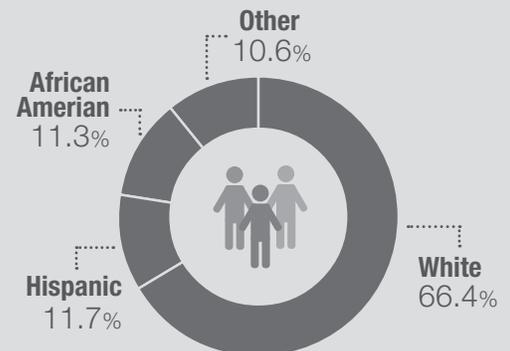
K-8
ST Math
Grades



3,562
Students



28.8%
Free/Reduced
Lunch



To see the full story, visit:

bit.ly/AlbemarleSTMath