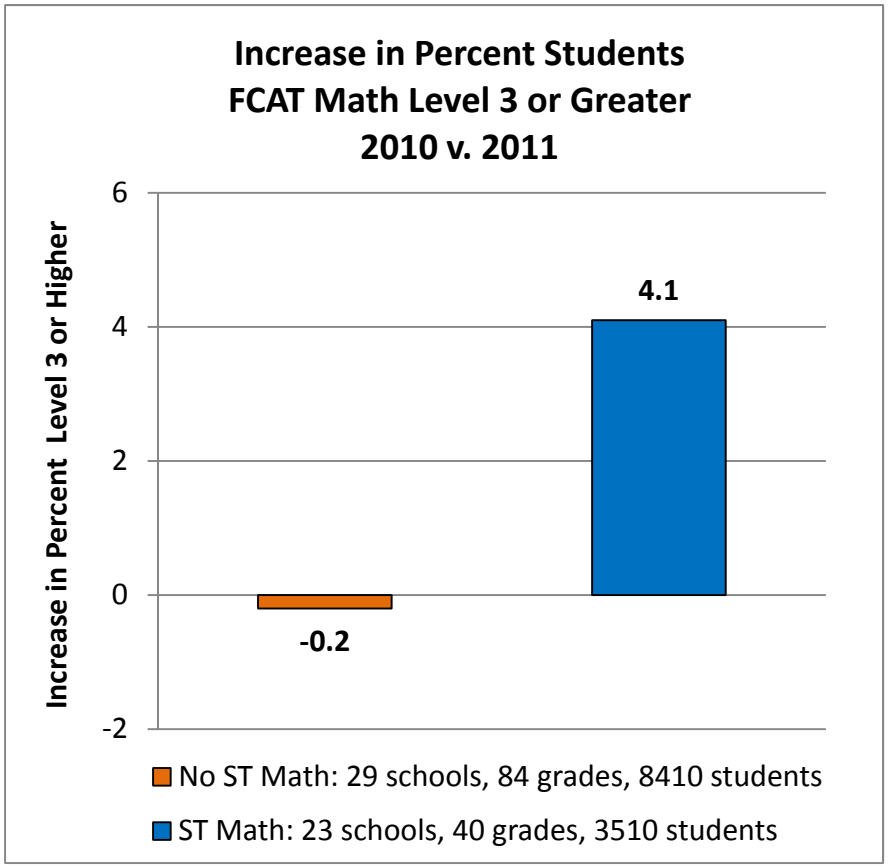
Orlando Math Initiative Growth 2010-2011

MIND Research Institute

Subjects: MIND Research Institute launched a Math Initiative in the Orange County Public Schools for the 2010/11 school year. The Math Initiative, funded by local philanthropy, is designed to increase math achievement at lower performing schools through deployment of a research-based math teaching and learning approach, implemented via student use of visual math instructional software. OCPS Principals were invited to grants launch events. Schools which applied were provided startup grants for two selected grade levels (e.g. grades 3 and 4). This report focuses on 23 schools implementing the program at grades 3, 4, and/or 5. These schools had altogether 40 grades and 3510 students using the program. The comparison set chosen was 8410 3rd through 5th graders at 29 other schools in Orange County, also eligible for Math Initiative grants, but which did not use the program at all in 2010/11.



Program: In each grade using the program, all students participate. The ST Math program consists of supplemental math instructional software which covers Florida Sunshine State math standards at each grade level. The software presents the mathematics as interactive, animated visual diagrams, or puzzles, for the students to solve. The students use the self-starting, self-paced instructional software twice per week under the teacher's supervision. The teacher receives training to use the software's visual representations during regular classroom lessons to connect to the conventional language-intensive math instruction.

Data Collection: The average Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) math achievement levels distributions, and student enrollment, was collected for each grade level for the years 2009/10 and 2010/11 from the Florida Department of Education website. Each year the data indicate the percentage of students at each grade who tested into the 5 different levels of math achievement. Level 3 or above is considered grade level proficiency. The average MIND program implementation percentage, and student enrollment in the MIND software, was collected from MIND's usage data.

Analysis Summary: Changes from 2009/10 to 2010/11 in the percentage of students at Level 3 or better were evaluated for the program group and comparison group. A gradewise growth comparison was evaluated (i.e. growth in same grade, same school, from 2009/10 to 2010/11).

Results: The grades implementing ST Math grew 4.1 points, as compared to a drop of 0.2 points in the comparison group.