# Appendix

## Appendix A1 Extent of evidence

Intervention name	Number of studies	Sample size (schools/students)	Extent of evidence <sup>1</sup>
Cognitive Tutor	2	9/781	Medium to large
Connected Mathematics Project (CMP)	3	100/14,696	Medium to large
I CAN Learn <sup>®</sup> Pre-Algebra and Algebra	6	729/16,656	Medium to large
Saxon Middle School Math	6	101/3,399	Medium to large
The Expert Mathematician	1	1/70	Small
Transition Mathematics	3	49/972	Medium to large
UCSMP Algebra	2	4/225	Medium to large <sup>2</sup>

### nr = not reported

1. A rating of "medium to large" requires at least two studies and two schools across studies in one domain and a total sample size across studies of at least 350 students or 14 classrooms. Otherwise, the rating is "small."

2. The extent of evidence for UCSMP Algebra is considered to be medium to large because, across studies, 14 classrooms were included at the time of analysis.

## Appendix A2 Targeted population

Intervention name	Targeted students (grade levels)	Students in studies reviewed (grade levels) <sup>1</sup>
Cognitive Tutor	7–12	9
Connected Mathematics Project (CMP)	6–8	6–8
I CAN Learn <sup>®</sup> Pre-Algebra and Algebra	6–12	8–9
Saxon Middle School Math	6–9	6–9
The Expert Mathematician	6–9	8
Transition Mathematics	7–12	7–9
UCSMP Algebra	7–10	8–9

Note: This table compares targeted grade levels and the grade levels in the studies reviewed by the WWC. Grade levels are related to student age and may affect outcomes due to differences in the students' developmental stages as well as differences in school size and organization.

1. Some of the studies reviewed included students in grades 10 or above, but the findings for those students were not reviewed because those grades were outside the scope of this review.

## Appendix A3 Summary of statistically significant<sup>1</sup> or substantively important<sup>2</sup> positive outcomes

	Math achievement		
Intervention name	Statistically significant positive findings <sup>3</sup>	Math achievement across outcomes	
Cognitive Tutor			
Morgan & Ritter, 2002	Math achievement grades (end of first and second semesters)	Statistically significant, Substantively important	
Schneyderman, 2001	ns	ns, nsi	
Connected Mathematics Project (CMP)			
Ridgway, Zawojewski, Hoover, & Lambdin, 2002	ns	ns, nsi	
Riordan & Noyce, 2001	Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS)—math scores	nS <sup>4</sup>	
Schneider, 2000	ns	ns, nsi	
I CAN Learn <sup>®</sup> Pre-Algebra and Algebra			
Kirby, 2006, October	Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) Grade 8 Mathematics Exam	Statistically significant, Substantively important	
Kerstyn, 2001, Algebra 1	ns	ns, nsi	
Kerstyn, 2001, Algebra 1 Honors	ns	ns, nsi	
Kerstyn, 2001, MJ-3 pre-algebra	ns	ns, nsi	
Kerstyn, 2001, MJ-3 Advanced	ns	ns, nsi	
Kerstyn, 2002, October, Algebra 1	ns	ns, nsi	
Kerstyn, 2002, October, Algebra 1 Honors	ns	ns, nsi	
Kerstyn, 2002, October, MJ-3 pre-algebra	FCAT mathematics	Statistically significant, nsi	
Kerstyn, 2002, October, MJ-3 Advanced	ns	ns, nsi	
Kirby, 2004, September	General Mathematics CST	Statistically significant, Substantively important	
Kirby, 2004a, November	Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (GCRCT) Math Test	Statistically significant, Substantively important	
Kirby, 2005, January	Algebra 1 EOC test	Statistically significant, Substantively important	
Saxon Middle School Math			
Williams, 1986	End-of-course math test	Statistically significant, Substantively important	
Peters, 1992	ns	ns, nsi	
Crawford & Raia, 1986	The California Achievement Test (CAT)	Statistically significant, Substantively important	
Resendez, Fahmy, & Manley, 2005	The Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS)—TLI score; The Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS)	Statistically significant, nsi	
Resendez & Manley, 2005	ns	ns <sup>4</sup>	
Roberts, 1994	ns	ns, nsi	

(continued)

## **Appendix A3 Summary of statistically significant<sup>1</sup> or substantively important<sup>2</sup> positive outcomes** (continued)

	Math achievement		
Intervention name	Statistically significant positive findings <sup>3</sup>	Math achievement across outcomes	
The Expert Mathematician			
Baker, 1997	ns	ns, Substantively important	
Transition Mathematics			
Baker, 1997	ns	ns, Substantively important negative effect	
Hedges et al., 1986	Geometry Readiness	ns, nsi	
Thompson et al., 2005	ns	ns, nsi	
UCSMP Algebra			
Peters, 1992	ns	ns, nsi	
Thompson et al., 2006	Algebra Readiness; Problem Solving and Understanding	ns, Substantively important	

#### na = not studied

#### ns = not statistically significant

#### nsi = not substantively important

1. According to the WWC criteria, if a program finds a statistically significant effect, there is less than a 5% chance that this difference is due to chance. The level of statistical significance was calculated by the WWC and, where necessary, corrects for clustering within classrooms or schools, and for multiple comparisons. The level of statistical significance was reported by the study authors or, where necessary, calculated by the WWC to correct for clustering within classrooms or schools and for multiple comparisons. For an explanation, see the <u>WWC Tutorial on Mismatch</u>. See the <u>Technical Details of WWC-Conducted Computations</u> for the formulas the WWC used to calculate the statistical significance.

2. For rating purposes, the WWC considers the statistical significance of the findings and the magnitude of the effect, also called the effect size. An average effect size is the sum of all the effect sizes of the student outcomes in a study in a single domain divided by the number of those outcomes. The WWC considers an average effect size across all student outcomes in one study in a given domain to be substantively important if it is equal to or greater than 0.25.

3. No studies showed statistically significant negative effects on math achievement.

4. Student-level effect size could not be computed for this study; whether or not the magnitude of the effect is substantively important is unknown. However, the statistical significance for this study is comparable to other studies and is included in the intervention rating. For further details, see <u>Technical Details of WWC-Conducted Computations</u>.

## Appendix A4 Methodology

One hundred and fifty-eight studies provided data on 34 middle school math curricula and were classified by the strength of their designs.<sup>1</sup> To be fully reviewed, a study had to be a randomized controlled trial or a quasi experimental design with evidence of equating between the treatment and comparison groups.

#### Eligibility for review

Quasi experiments eligible for review include those equating through matching or statistical adjustment, regression discontinuity designs, and single case designs. However, no studies identified for the middle school math review used regression discontinuity or single case designs.

In judging the quality of the evidence, the review considered the properties of measurement instruments used in the studies, the percentage of the original study sample that was lost to follow-up, and any sample characteristics or events that might serve as alternative explanations for the observed effect. For details please see the <u>WWC Evidence Standards</u>. When results were reported for multiple time periods following sample enrollment, the longer term results were included in the review.

The research evidence for programs that have at least one study meeting WWC evidence standards with or without reservations is summarized in individual intervention reports posted on the WWC website. See <u>http://www.whatworks.</u> <u>ed.gov</u>. So far, 21 studies of 7 middle school programs have met evidence standards with or without reservations. The lack of evidence for the remaining programs does not mean that those programs are ineffective; some programs have not yet been studied using a study design that permits the WWC to draw any conclusions about their effectiveness. And some studies were not considered for rating of effectiveness purposes because insufficient information was reported to enable us to confirm statistical findings.

#### **Rating of effectiveness**

Each middle school math curriculum that had at least one study meeting WWC standards with or without reservations received a rating of effectiveness for math achievement. The rating of effectiveness aims to characterize the existing evidence base on the intervention within a given domain. The intervention effects based on the research evidence are rated as positive, potentially positive, mixed, no discernible effects, potentially negative, or negative.

The rating of effectiveness takes into account four factors: the quality of the research design, the statistical significance of the findings, the size of the difference between students in the intervention and the comparison conditions, and the consistency in findings across studies (see the <u>WWC Intervention Rating</u> <u>Scheme</u>).

The level of statistical significance was reported by the study authors or, where necessary, calculated by the WWC to correct for clustering within classrooms or schools and for multiple comparisons. Because of these corrections, the level of statistical significance as calculated by the WWC may differ from the one originally reported by the study authors. For the formulas that we used to calculate statistical significance, see <u>Technical Details</u> of WWC-Conducted Computations. For an explanation, see the <u>WWC Tutorial on Mismatch</u>. If the average effect size across all outcomes in one study in a single domain is at least 0.25, it is considered substantively important, contributing toward the rating of effectiveness. See the technical appendices of the middle school math intervention report for further details.

#### Extent of evidence

The evidence base rating represents the size and number of independent samples that were assessed for the purposes of analysis of the program effects. A "medium to large" evidence

1. No empirical studies were identified for additional 14 programs during the time period of this review.

Appendix A4 Methodology (continued)

base requires at least two studies and two schools across studies of at least 350 students or 14 classrooms. Otherwise, the evidence base is considered to be "small." The WWC is currently working to define a "large" evidence base. This term should not be confused with external validity, as other facets of external validity—such as variations in settings, important subgroups of students, implementation, and outcome measures—were not taken into account for the purposes of this rating.

#### Improvement Index

The WWC computes an improvement index for each individual finding. In addition, within each outcome domain, the WWC

computes an average improvement index for each domain and each study as well as a domain average improvement index across studies of the same intervention (see the <u>Technical</u> <u>Details of WWC Conducted Computations</u>). The improvement index represents the difference between the percentile rank of the average student in the intervention condition and the percentile rank of the average student in the comparison condition. The improvement index can take on values between –50 and +50, with positive numbers denoting results favorable to the intervention group. Unlike the rating of effectiveness, the improvement index is based only on the size of the difference between the intervention and the comparison conditions.

## Appendix A5 Studies that met WWC standards

## **References** Cognitive Tutor<sup>®</sup> Algebra I

Morgan, P., & Ritter, S. (2002). An experimental study of the effects of Cognitive Tutor Algebra I on student knowledge and attitude. Retrieved November 22, 2006, from http:// www.carnegielearning.com/research/research\_reports/ morgan\_ritter\_2002.pdf

## I CAN Learn<sup>®</sup> Pre-Algebra and Algebra

Kirby, P. C. (2006, October). I CAN Learn<sup>®</sup> in Orleans Parish Public Schools: Effects on LEAP 8th grade math achievement, 2003–2004. (Available from the ed-cet, Inc., 2301 Killdeer Street, New Orleans, LA 70122)

## Additional citation for this study:

Kirby, P. C. (2004b, November). I CAN Learn<sup>®</sup> in Orleans Parish Public Schools effects on LEAP 8th grade math achievement, 2003–2004. (Available from the ed-cet, Inc., 2301 Killdeer Street, New Orleans, LA 70122)

## The Expert Mathematician

Baker, J. J. (1997). Effects of a generative instructional design strategy on learning mathematics and on attitudes towards achievement. *Dissertation Abstracts International*, 58(7), 2573A. (UMI No. 9800955)

## Saxon Middle School Math

Williams, D. D. (1986). *The incremental method of teaching algebra I*. Kansas City: University of Missouri.

## **Transition Mathematics**

Baker, J. J. (1997). Effects of a generative instructional design strategy on learning mathematics and on attitudes towards achievement. *Dissertation Abstracts International*, 58(7), 2573A. (UMI No. 9800955)

## Studies that met WWC standards with reservations Cognitive Tutor<sup>®</sup> Algebra I

Schneyderman, A. (2001, September). *Evaluation of the Cognitive Tutor Algebra 1 program.* Unpublished manuscript. (Available from Miami-Dade County Public Schools Office of Evaluation and Research, 1500 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL 33132)

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## Interventions with no studies

A+ny where Learning System
Heath Mathematics Connections (textbook series)
Holt Middle School Math (textbook)
Key Math Teach and Practice
Larson Developmental Math Series
Lightspan Achieve Now
Macmillan/McGraw-Hill
Math Advantage (textbook series)
Math Applications and Connections (textbook series published
by Glencoe)
Mathematics Plus (textbook series published by Harcourt)
MathScape: Seeing and Thinking Mathematically
Middle Grades Math (textbook series, published by
ScottForesman/AddisonWesley)
Middle School Mathematics through Applications Program
(MMAP)
Real Math basal mathematics program
Reasoning Mind
Scott Foresman Math Diagnostic & Intervention System

- 1. Confound: there was only one intervention unit and/or one comparison unit, so the analysis could not separate the effects of the intervention from other factors.
- 2. Lack of evidence for baseline equivalence: the study, which uses a quasi-experimental design, does not establish that the comparison group was equivalent to the intervention group at baseline.
- 3. Intervention is not relevant: the intervention does not meet the WWC standards of a core middle school math curriculum.
- 4. Study is outside the time frame of the review: the parameters for this WWC review specified that interventions were implemented after 1983 but this study involves students that began the intervention prior to 1983.
- 5. Intervention is not relevant: the implementation length of the curriculum is too short.
- 6. Does not use a strong causal design: this study does not use a comparison group.
- 7. Does not use a strong causal design: this study provides no information on the research design and has no authorship.
- 8. Outcomes measures are not relevant to this review.
- 9. Does not use a strong causal design: this is a qualitative study.
- 10. Lack of evidence for baseline equivalence: the study, which was reviewed as a quasi-experimental design, does not establish that the comparison group was equivalent to the intervention group at baseline. This study, which was designed as a regression discontinuity design, does not properly assign students at the cutoff grade.
- 11. Does not use a strong causal design: there was a change in instrumentation during the study.
- 12. Sample is not relevant to this review: the parameters for this WWC review specified that students should be in grades 6–9; this study did not disaggregate students in the eligible range from those outside the range.
- 13. Complete data were not reported: the WWC could not compute effect sizes.
- 14. Sample is not relevant to the scope of this review: this study does not focus on students in U.S. schools, one of the parameters for this WWC review.