

White Paper, April 2009

# California Numeracy Project™

## Development of the Numeracy Project

In October 2001, Santa Clara University was exploring the development of a mathematics curriculum appropriate for the Juvenile Court and Community Schools (JCCS). Representatives from Alameda, Monterey, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz county offices of education were invited to participate in this project. While there was a language arts program (Character Based Literacy) that had proven to be effective for the students served in JCCS, there was no comparable program in mathematics.

This group determined that an effective student and teacher friendly curriculum for mathematics would also address needed student support for the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). The intent was to develop effective student materials to provide scaffolding and foundational concepts that were interactive and motivational. Teacher-friendly curriculum would provide background information for teachers who might need augmented content knowledge, but would also provide experienced teachers with more mathematics background a structure that was useful. County Offices of Education (COEs) throughout the state of California were invited to participate in this project. Under the leadership of the Alameda County Superintendent of Schools, twenty-eight COEs, and the Juvenile Court, Community, and Alternative School Administrators of California (JCCASAC) contributed financial and personnel support to the project.

County Office Mathematics Coordinators and County Court and Community School teachers across the state created a trio of lessons (Developmental, Core, and Extension) for each standard tested on the CAHSEE. These lessons were then compiled into a curriculum by strand and a pacing guide was provided. The program was distributed and piloted by teachers throughout the state.

Starting in the Fall of 2008, Scholastic commenced a joint partnership with California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) to revise the Numeracy Project and publish California Numeracy Project for use throughout the state of California. Scholastic editors in conjunction with members of the County Office Mathematics Committee reviewed and enhanced the lessons, and added a Student Workbook, an Annotated Workbook Teacher Guide, and a Teacher Guide and CD-ROM for the program.

## Intended Use

Although the Numeracy Project was developed for Court and Community students, the curriculum has great potential for use with ANY group of students preparing for the CAHSEE, particularly those needing extra support. In 2007 and 2008, over 1600 teachers in California were initially trained and given a CD with a pilot version of the program.

## Expanded Use of Program for After School, Before School, Summer School, and more...

As the pilot materials were being used, a wide range of teachers found the Numeracy Project effective—especially for those teachers who are new to the profession, as well as those teaching outside of their primary expertise. Teachers realized that it could be successful with student populations in a comprehensive high school setting; after school programs; summer schools; adult schools; special education; substitute teachers; and community college mandated classes for students not meeting the minimal mathematics standards. Teachers from other agencies such as Job Corps, California School for the Deaf, San Francisco Community College also found the program to be effective in their settings.

## What Distinguishes the Numeracy Project from other CAHSEE Prep Materials?

The Numeracy Project provides support for exactly HOW to teach a particular standard. The program serves as a resource to build capacity by providing standards-based, grade-level materials targeted to the CAHSEE. The Numeracy Project recognizes that properly sequencing a presentation, posing the particular questions that should be asked at key points, and use of specific materials such as transparencies and handouts provide keys to effective teaching. The Numeracy Project provides the teachers with a coherent curriculum that accelerates student achievement.

## Current

Scholastic's California Numeracy Project Student Workbook, Teacher Guide with accompanying CD-ROM, and Annotated Workbook Teacher Guide, are now available for purchase. County Offices of Education offer training and professional development for maximizing implementation of the curriculum. Log onto [www.ccsesa.org](http://www.ccsesa.org) or [www.scholastic.com/numeracyproject](http://www.scholastic.com/numeracyproject) for more information.