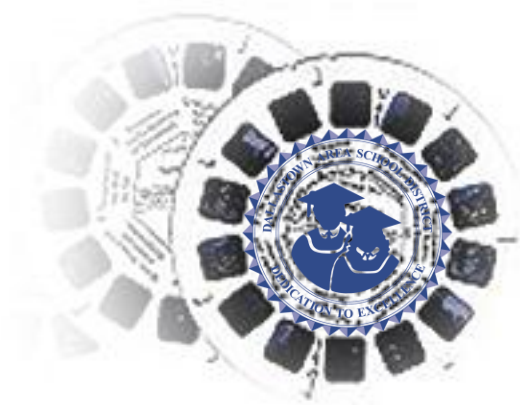


Initiatives



Several of the initiatives we have undertaken during the past year include the development of a comprehensive plan for language arts and mathematics instruction in the elementary schools, expansion of Hands On Equations for upper elementary students to experience algebraic concepts through manipulatives, the development of benchmark tests for elementary students in the areas of math and reading, the Math Task Force whose members are reviewing the pacing and sequencing of algebra, geometry, and upper level mathematics courses, implementation of Atomic Learning and the Acellus programs for computer programs and remediation in secondary mathematics respectively, and expanded learning opportunities for remediation and enrichment, including Dallastown Area School District's first summer school for high school students.

Initiatives at all grade levels are positively affecting student achievement. The elementary program includes a full-day kindergarten and transition first grade class, and Reading Recovery[®] strategies are implemented for first graders needing assistance in learning to read; middle and high school students receive additional, intensive remediation or intervention instruction to increase achievement levels of state standards; all grade levels reflect strategies incorporating the use of technology to increase student learning rates; and, various assessments collect data about achievement at the classroom level.

The emphasis on increasing student achievement is not limited to any one grade level. Teachers at various grade levels are piloting the use of various methods to increase spelling achievement (such as Word Study in the elementary and middle schools), reading comprehension (such as Reading Apprenticeship in middle and high school classes), and the Plato Learning Lab supplemented by other software at the high school level.

One important goal for the near future is to increase the number of students successfully completing Algebra I in eighth grade, permitting student access to higher level mathematics one year earlier than most traditional math course sequences. In anticipation of sequence changes, a pilot program called Hands On Equations began implementation at several schools for upper grade elementary students. Various software programs are available for remediation or extra tutoring of middle and high school students in Foundations of Mathematics, Pre-Algebra, Algebra levels, Geometry, and other higher level courses.