*REL West Study Examines Effects of Summer Middle School Math Instruction Program*

Working with a research alliance in Silicon Valley, California, Regional Educational Laboratory West conducted a randomized controlled trial to examine the effects of the Elevate Math summer program on math achievement and algebra readiness, as well as math interest and math self-efficacy, among rising grade 8 students. The program targeted students who scored between high basic and low proficient on the grade 6 math California Standards Test and provided them with four hours of standards-based math instruction a day for 19 days in the summer of 2014.

The study found that students who had access to the Elevate Math summer program in the first half of the summer significantly outperformed their control group counterparts in math achievement and algebra readiness. At the end of the intervention, math achievement scores of the treatment group exceeded those of the control group by 0.7 standard deviation. In addition, 29 percent of the treatment group reached a level of math achievement that indicated algebra readiness, compared with 12 percent of the control group. The study found no significant effects on math interest or math self-efficacy. The findings suggest that summer math programs such as the Elevate Math summer program may be important tools for improving math achievement among rising grade 8 students. But additional support, above and beyond summer interventions, is likely to be needed to ensure students are ready for challenging middle school math courses.

This study demonstrates how school districts can rigorously evaluate their programs at low cost and in a timely manner. In this case, the districts randomly assigned interested students to take the course in the first or second part of the summer. As a result, all interested students were able to take the course, and the districts also obtained rigorous evidence on the effect of the program.


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*The Regional Educational Laboratories (RELs) build the capacity of educators to use data and research to improve student outcomes. Each REL responds to needs identified in its region and makes learning opportunities and other resources available to educators throughout the United States. To receive regular updates on REL work, including more reports like this, follow NCEE on Twitter: @IES_NCEE. To provide feedback on this or other REL work, email NCEE.Feedback@ed.gov.*

*Grant Opportunities for Educators through NSHSS*

About NSHSS

The National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS) is an international honor society. Founded in 2002 by James W. Lewis and Claes Nobel, senior member of the family that established the Nobel Prizes, NSHSS is helping to advance the goals and aspirations of high-achieving students through unique learning experiences, scholarships, internships, international study and peer networks. At each step along the way – from high school to college to career – NSHSS connects outstanding young scholars with the resources they need to develop their strengths and pursue their passions. For more information visit: [www.nshss.org](http://www.nshss.org)

The National Society of High School Scholars offers the following opportunities to outstanding educators:

Conference Grants - $1000 grants to attend professional conferences. Applications available September, 2015.

DECA Advisor Leadership Awards - $1000 awards presented to DECA Advisors at the DECA International Conference. Applications available Winter, 2015.

Higher Education Grants - $2500 grants to be used for tuition, books, and other related expenses by counselors and teachers pursuing a master's or doctorate degree in education or a subject area related to their teaching fields. Applications available Spring 2016.

For more information, visit: http://www.nshss.org/about-nshss/educators/opportunities

*The 2015-2016 Federal Carl D. Perkins E-Grant application opened today (6/30) and is available for public high school districts to open and complete. Notification to all Authorized Representatives was sent out by email on June 19, 2015, from Kate Vatter, E-Grants Program Manager. The allocations loaded into the E-Grants system are FINAL numbers. This means you can create a new application for 2015-2016 and begin working on it. The due date for opening/creating a Perkin grant application is September 15, 2015. The due date for initial application approval is October 31, 2015.

According to the Carl D. Perkins Act of 2006, allocation calculations are based on current U.S. Census poverty and population counts. Local Distribution of Funds to Secondary Education Programs are distributed by formula based on school district Poverty counts (70%) and Population counts (30%). In addition, any unobligated or unspent Perkins monies from the prior year are redistributed by formula to all high schools. The distribution explanation can be found in Part C Section 131(1) and (2) on pages 130 and 131 of the Perkins Act of 2006, The Official Guide.

For questions about the Carl D. Perkins Federal Grant program, or about your application, please contact one of the following:

BRAD KING, Agriculture Education Specialist, email: bking2@mt.gov or by phone at 406.444.4451
RENEE HARRIS, Health Science Education Specialist, email: rharris3@mt.gov or by phone at 406.994.6986
DIANA FIEDLER, Perkins Accountability Specialist, email: dfiedler@mt.gov or by phone at 406.444.9019
For questions about the E-Grant program, contact Kate Vatter at kvatter@mt.gov or by phone at 406.444.7842

"The Montana Office of Public Instruction provides vision, advocacy, support and leadership for schools and communities to ensure that all students meet today’s challenges and tomorrow’s opportunities."
* Flathead Valley Community College is now registering students for the upcoming fall semester.
The complete course schedule of credit classes and course descriptions are available on the college’s website, www.fvcc.edu.
Class registration is open to returning students. Before registering for fall classes, returning students with current admissions files should contact their faculty advisors or an academic advisor in the FVCC Learning Center by calling 756-3880.

New degree-seeking students applying for admission to the college are required to have a complete admissions file, which includes a completed application for admission; high school transcripts or diploma and an official copy of college transcripts, if applicable; proof of two measles, mumps and rubella immunizations; and completion of the COMPASS placement test. New degree-seeking students also are required to attend New Student Orientation prior to registering for classes. The application for admission may be completed on the college’s website or in the Admissions Office at no cost. Several New Student Orientation sessions will be held during July and August. To schedule a New Student Orientation appointment, call Mary Jordt at 756-3673.

Running Start registration will open August 10. The program provides eligible high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to get an affordable start on their college education by earning college credits while still in high school. The college will host a Running Start informational session July 28 at 6 p.m. in the large community meeting room inside the Arts & Technology Building on the FVCC campus. For more information on Running Start, contact Elizabeth Romain at 756-3923.
Non-degree seeking students are subject to different admissions requirements and should contact the Admissions Office at 756-3851 for more information. Classes fill on a first-come, first-served basis. **For more information, call 756-3848, or visit www.fvcc.edu**

*MCAN (Montana College Access Network) Producing Documentary Film on First Generation Students*
MCAN is beginning the process of making a documentary film highlighting First Generation Students with a working title “Dreaming Big Under the Big Sky”. The filmmakers are looking for students who are seniors in high school up through seniors in college who are the first in their families to go to college. They want students who are willing to be on camera during times like College Application Week, and various other times throughout the year and a half it will take to do the filming. If you know of students who might be a good fit for this film and would be interested in being interviewed by the filmmakers, please send me their names and contact information. Each student will have to sign a release, and if under 18, will need parental consent as well. For more information please contact me, Suzin Kratina, at skratina@montana.edu or 406.444.0301.