

CESA 7 Math Partnership for Excellence: CORE BELIEFS

Core Beliefs for PK-12 Mathematics

1. **Importance of Math.** We believe mathematics is of vital importance at all grade levels, all students can learn mathematics, and all teachers have a crucial role in providing the learning of mathematics to all students.
2. **Learning.** We believe students need to learn mathematics with understanding, actively building new knowledge from experience and prior knowledge.
3. **Equity.** We believe excellence in mathematics education requires equity through high expectations and strong support for all students.
4. **Curriculum.** We believe students must develop mathematically through a mathematics curriculum that is coherent and connected across grade levels. The curriculum must focus on mathematics knowledge, skills and understanding necessary for continued study and life.
5. **Thinking and Creativity.** We believe mathematics should not be taught as just a collection of skills and concepts. Mathematics must also include ways of thinking and intellectual curiosity which lead to creative problem solving and innovation.
6. **Integrated Across Content Areas.** We believe mathematics is an integral part of life, and therefore must be integrated throughout all content areas and all content areas are integrated into mathematics learning.
7. **Teaching.** We believe understanding what students know and need to learn must determine strategies for instruction, differentiation and intervention.
8. **Teacher Support.** We believe all teachers who teach mathematics need to use a variety of high quality internal and external resources to support their practice. School districts should provide time and support for teachers to effectively collaborate and network regularly.
9. **Assessment.** We believe the role of assessment in mathematics is to guide teaching and actively engage students in their own mathematical learning through a variety of formative and summative assessments.
10. **Technology.** We believe the effective use of appropriate technology is essential in teaching and learning mathematics; it influences the mathematics that is taught, how it is taught and it enhances students' learning.