

Targeted practice helps teachers boost student math growth

Using Accelerated Math, MathFacts in a Flash, or both with STAR Math results in even higher growth.

Recently, Renaissance Learning analyzed the STAR Math student growth data of approximately 1.6 million students from their hosted database for the 2012-2013 school year. Students using MathFacts in a Flash and/or Accelerated Math in addition to STAR Math show higher growth than students using only STAR Math. Students were considered to be active MathFacts in a Flash users if they mastered 10 or more levels during the 2012-13 school year. Similarly, students were considered to be active Accelerated Math users if they mastered four or more objectives per week (or two or more objectives per week for students in grades 1 and 2).

These charts show the median Student Growth Percentile (SGP) and Normal Curve Equivalent (NCE) growth for groups of students using each math practice product, or both. The highest gains were shown by the group of students who actively used MathFacts in a Flash and Accelerated Math in addition to testing with STAR Math: their median SGP was 62, and their median NCE growth was 6.8.

An SGP, as shown in Chart 1, compares a student's growth to that of his or her academic peers nationwide. SGPs provide a measure of how a student changed from one test to the next relative to other students with similar starting scores. SGPs range from 1-99 and interpretation is similar to that of Percentile Rank scores; lower numbers indicate lower relative growth and higher numbers show higher relative growth. For example, an SGP of 62 means that the student's growth from one test to another exceeds the growth of 62% of students with a similar beginning (pretest) score.

Chart 2 shows NCE gains. An NCE gain of zero indicates that student growth and learning have occurred at an average pace during the school year. Some educators and evaluators believe that any NCE gain greater than zero marks improvement in student performance. Other experts feel that a yearly change of more than three points is considered significant improvement.

Chart 1: Median Fall to Spring SGP in 2012-2013

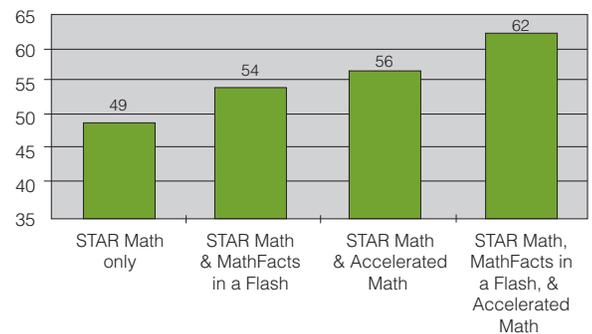
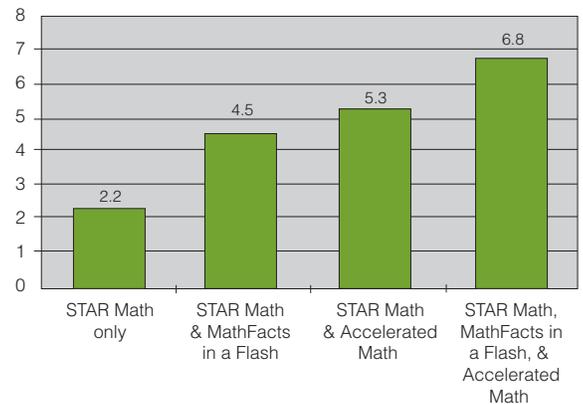


Chart 2: Median Fall to Spring NCE in 2012-2013



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