S. D. BECHTEL, JR. FOUNDATION
STEPHEN BECHTEL FUND

The S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation invests in a productive, vibrant, and sustainable California through two program areas – Education and Environment. Learn more: sdbjrfoundation.org.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Foundation envisions children and youth developing the knowledge, skills, and character to explore and understand the world around them, growing into caring, informed, and productive adults.

Math portfolio

Recognizing teachers as the single most important contributor to student achievement, the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation invests in high-quality models of math teaching and learning in California's K–8 classrooms through full implementation of the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics (CCSS-M).

Goal

Advance high-quality math teaching and learning in California's K–8 classrooms by supporting districts that are strongly committed to CCSS-M implementation, and by disseminating lessons learned across the state.

Approach

- **A** Support K–8 CCSS-M implementation in diverse districts to develop successful approaches; share promising practices statewide (Math in Common® initiative).
- **B** Build the capacity of statewide networks and systems to support CCSS-M implementation, including the Instructional Leadership Corps and the County Offices of Education.
- **C** Invest in CCSS-M advocacy efforts that emphasize the need for high-quality professional development.
- **D** Fund communications efforts to maintain support for CCSS-M among teachers, students, parents, policymakers, and all other education stakeholders.

Intended outcomes

- ✓ Capacity is built in ten districts to implement CCSS-M with fidelity. These districts become resources for others implementing CCSS-M.
- ✓ Key stakeholders in California increasingly use lessons learned from Math in Common to strengthen CCSS-M implementation.
- ✓ Sustainable systems of support at both the state and regional levels build district capacity statewide to implement CCSS-M with fidelity.
- ✓ A growing number of stakeholders statewide understand and support CCSS-M implementation.

Progress to date

- Ten school districts, serving a total of 300,000 K–8 students, implemented CCSS-M through the Math in Common initiative.
- A community of practice provided noticeable benefits for these districts, enabling them to accelerate their work by sharing knowledge and resources. Eight of the original ten districts are continuing in the community of practice through June 2020.
- Teachers and administrators are participating in CCSS-M aligned professional development in these districts, with an increasing emphasis on collaborative, practice-based models of learning.

Evaluation and learning

- A multi-year evaluation of the Math in Common initiative by WestEd is exploring how districts, sites, and teachers are implementing CCSS-M, and with what effect on student learning. Findings are disseminated statewide.
- WestEd is working with the Math in Common districts to strengthen their ability to collect and use data for continuous improvement.
- California Education Partners is facilitating a community of practice for the Math in Common districts, so that learning can be shared in real time, to accelerate progress and prevent missteps from being repeated.