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Empowering Special Education Math Teachers: Building Capacity Through SMPL and NCTM Partnership

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Fulton
County Schools
Where Students Come First



Outcomes



- **Refined Coaching Practices:** Understand how SDI coaches are supported by NCTM coaches to strengthen their coaching skills, deepen their math knowledge, and guide teachers in implementing effective instruction for students with disabilities.
- **Teacher Empowerment:** Learn how to equip teachers with tools and strategies to utilize district frameworks and target IEP goals while delivering equitable, rigorous math instruction.
- **Sustainability:** Explore how coaches monitor and support teacher progress, including those not directly in SMPL, ensuring lasting improvement in instructional practices.
- **Equity and Access:** Gain practical strategies to ensure accessible math instruction aligned with effective teaching practices, promoting success for all students with disabilities.
- **Impact and Recognition:** Celebrate the measurable success of SMPL, including its role in raising math achievement scores for students with disabilities and its recognition by the GA DOE.

Project description



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Specialized Math Professional Learning (SMPL) initiative empowers coaches, leaders, and teachers to improve math outcomes for students with disabilities. Through NCTM-supported coaching and professional learning, SDI coaches and teachers build capacity to deliver equitable, high-quality math instruction aligned with district frameworks. Explore strategies for sustainability, teacher progress monitoring, and celebrating success, including GA DOE recognition for increased test scores.

- Professional learning collaborative project between Fulton County Schools and NCTM-5-year plan
- Focused on developing mathematical content knowledge and enhancing instructional strategies



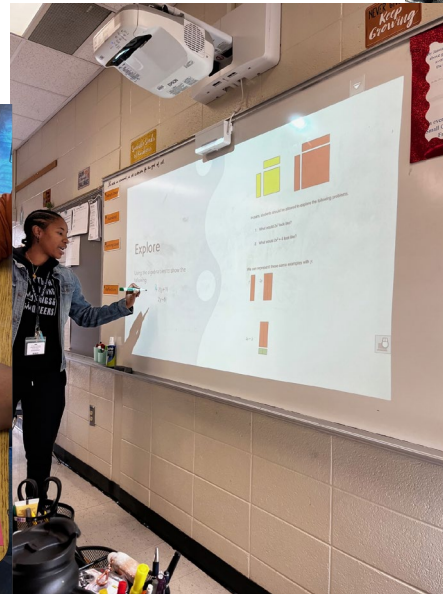
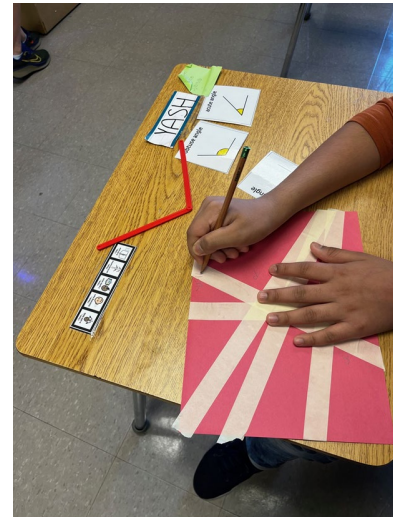
Five Components

- Collaborative partnership
- Mathematics content
- Research- and evidence-based instructional strategies
- Coaching (virtual and live)
- Implementation aspects



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Collaborative Partnership



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- Builds an inclusive partnership
- Tailors the professional learning around the needs
- Incorporates characteristics of effective adult learning
- Establishes relationships with stakeholders for buy-in and mindset change
- Provides on-going opportunities for feedback, refinement, and reflection
- Analyzes student data for impact

Mathematics Content



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- 1. Develops mathematical content knowledge for teachers**
- 2. Reflects topics identified for teacher professional knowledge growth**
- 3. Responds to changes in perceptions of content needs**
- 4. Aligns with learning progressions**
- 5. Focuses on foundational and conceptual understandings to develop procedural fluency**

Instructional Strategies



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- **Uses the recommendations from the IES practice guide**
- **Models strategies in the professional learning**
- **Incorporates effective teaching practices with an emphasis on student learning**
- **Focus on equitable access with consistent lens on inclusiveness**
- **Moves from direct instruction to a middle ground approach that supports more student-centered instruction**

Planning Session



- Two-hour virtual planning meeting
- Did the math together
- Anticipated students' responses
- Planned the lesson

Task

Create a rectangle that has an area of 12 and draw a picture of it.

Write a math equation to find the area of it.

Now figure out the perimeter.

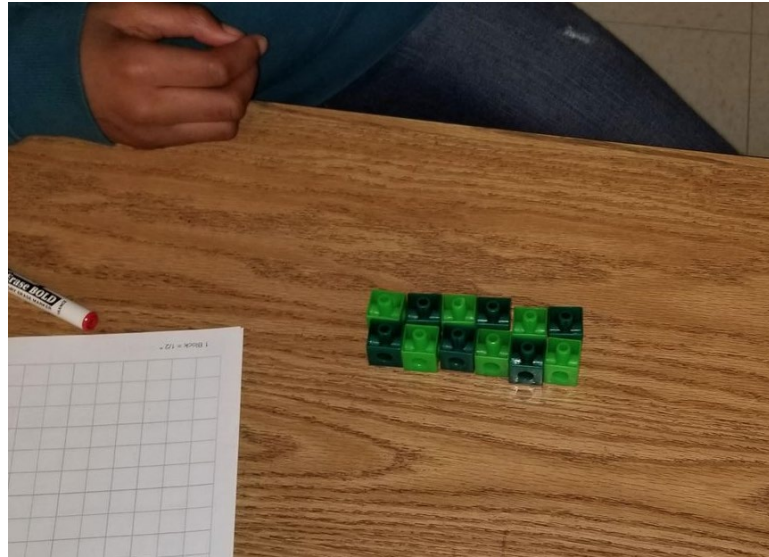
Write a math equation to find the perimeter.

Create all the other ways you can make a rectangle that has an area of 12.

Write the math equation for area and perimeter for each of them.

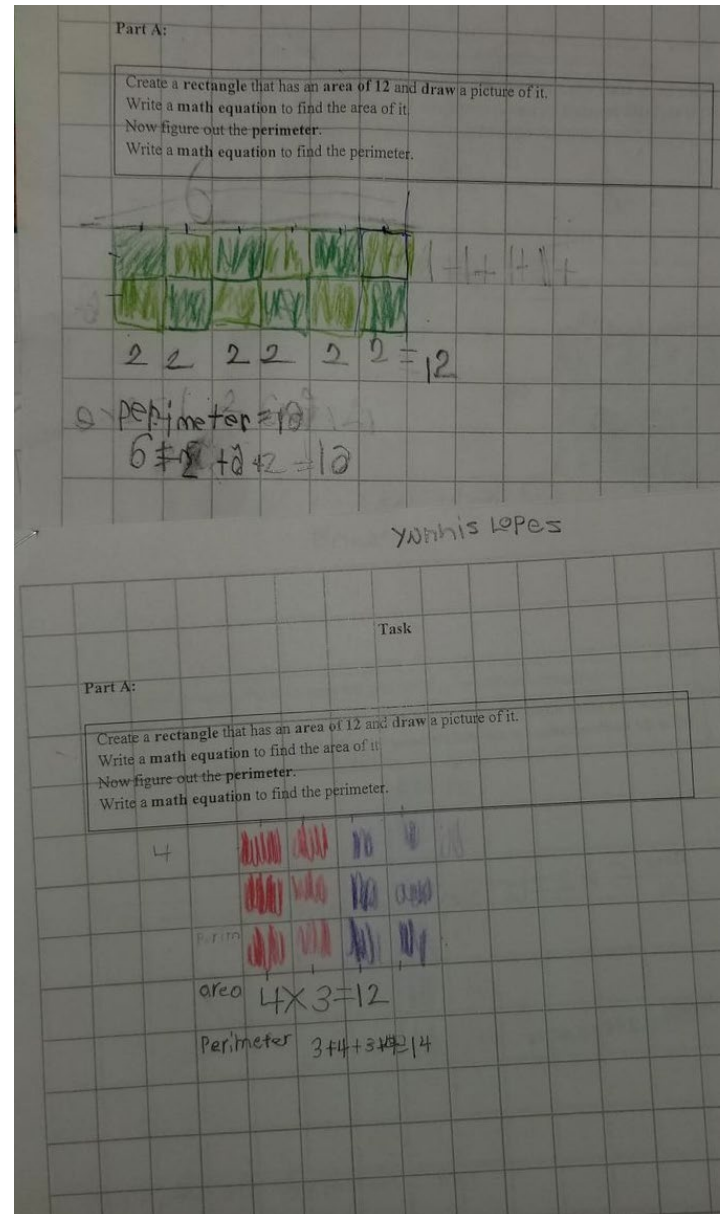
Solve the task and anticipate how students would solve...

Student Work



What do you notice about the student work?

What do you wonder?



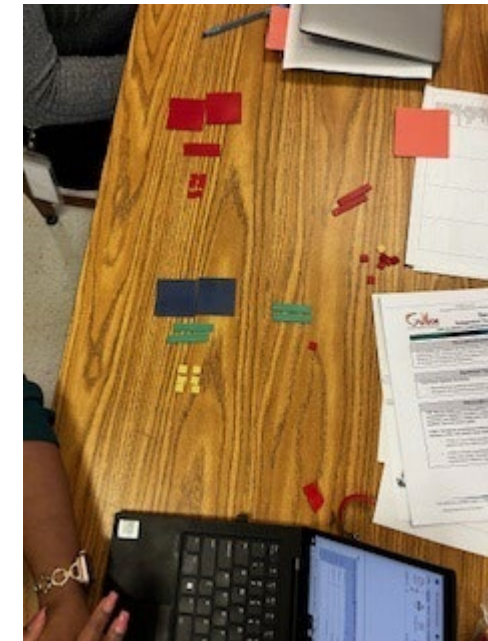
Implementation Aspects



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- Involves co-construction of lessons
- Builds knowledge to understand the design of instruction and content
- Practices implementation before using with students



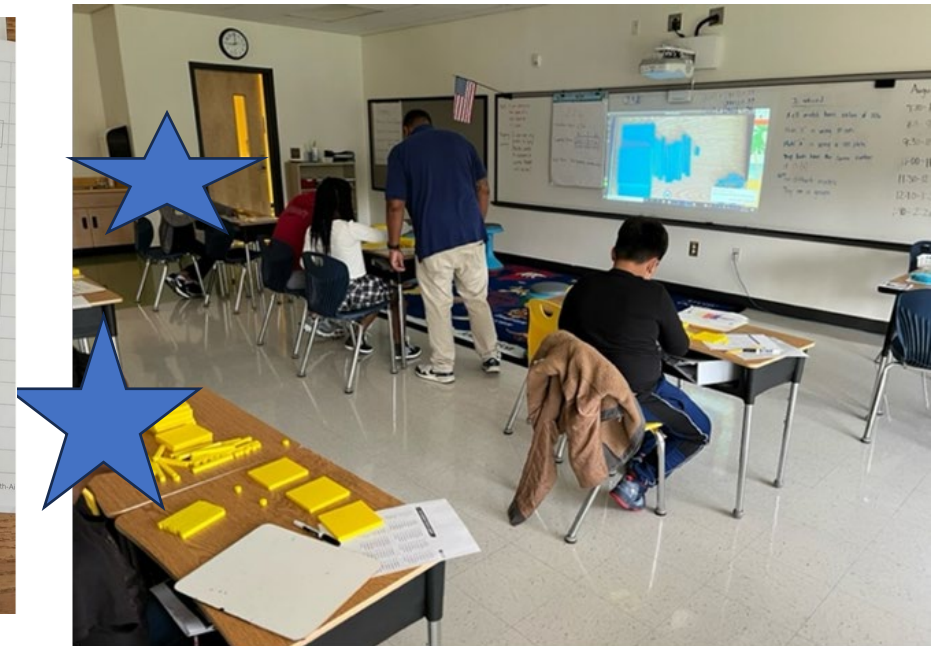
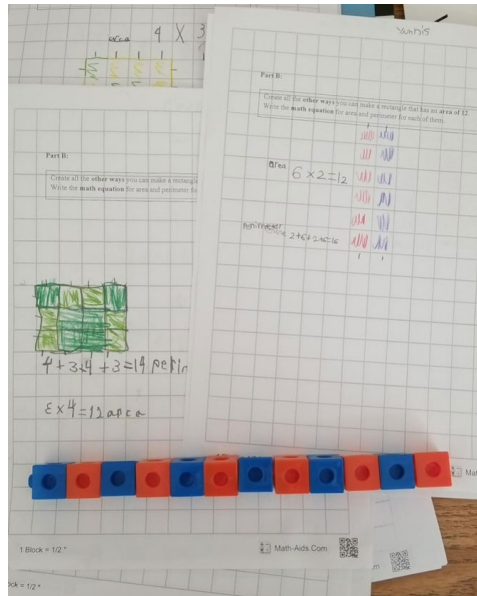
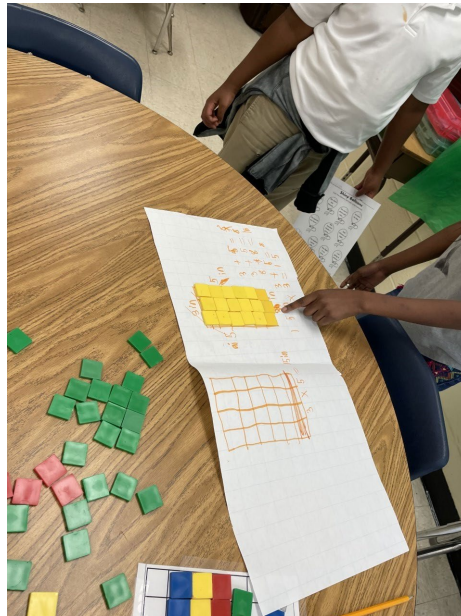
Coaching: In Person and Virtual



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- Includes multiple levels of coaching with flexibility to address needs
- Co-construction of lessons with intentional planning
- Scaffolds teachers' learning for implementation
- Contributes to coaches' growth that leads to stronger sustainability



Sustainability



INSTRUCTIONAL FRAMEWORK

SEC Math Lesson Planning Checklist

This document is used to guide planning to ensure inclusion of high leverage instructional practices and specially designed instruction (SDI).

Enter your name: _____

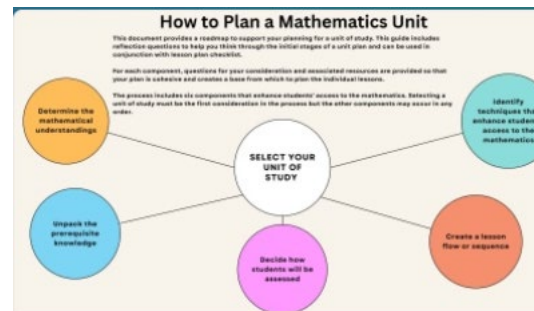
Engage Component

Explore Component

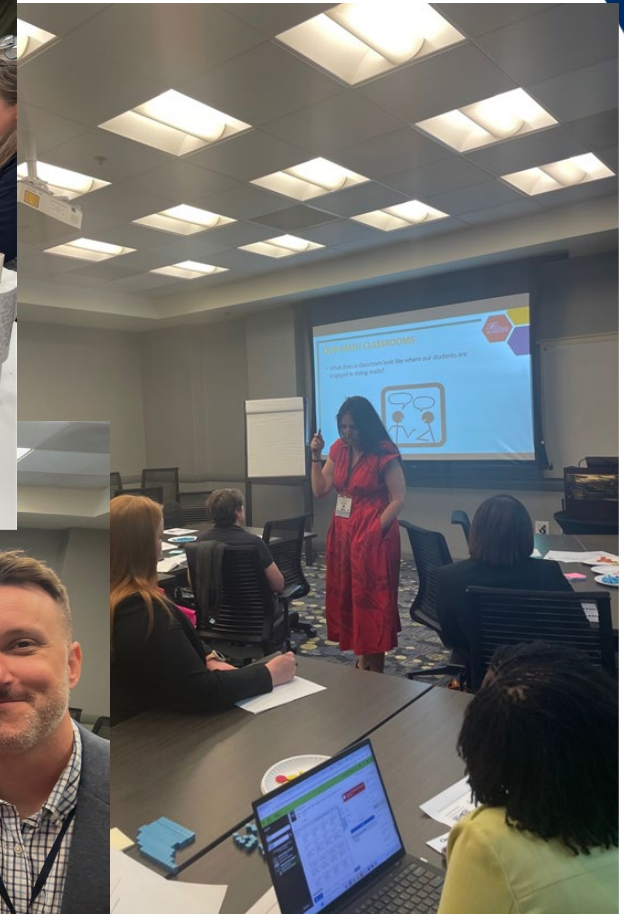
Apply Component

Reflect Component

Lesson Planning Checklist



Unit Planning Combined Document



Celebrations



NCTM President visited our session.

The GA DOE recognized our work!

Special Education Teacher Feedback from Surveys

Teachers seeking opportunities to participate in SMPL

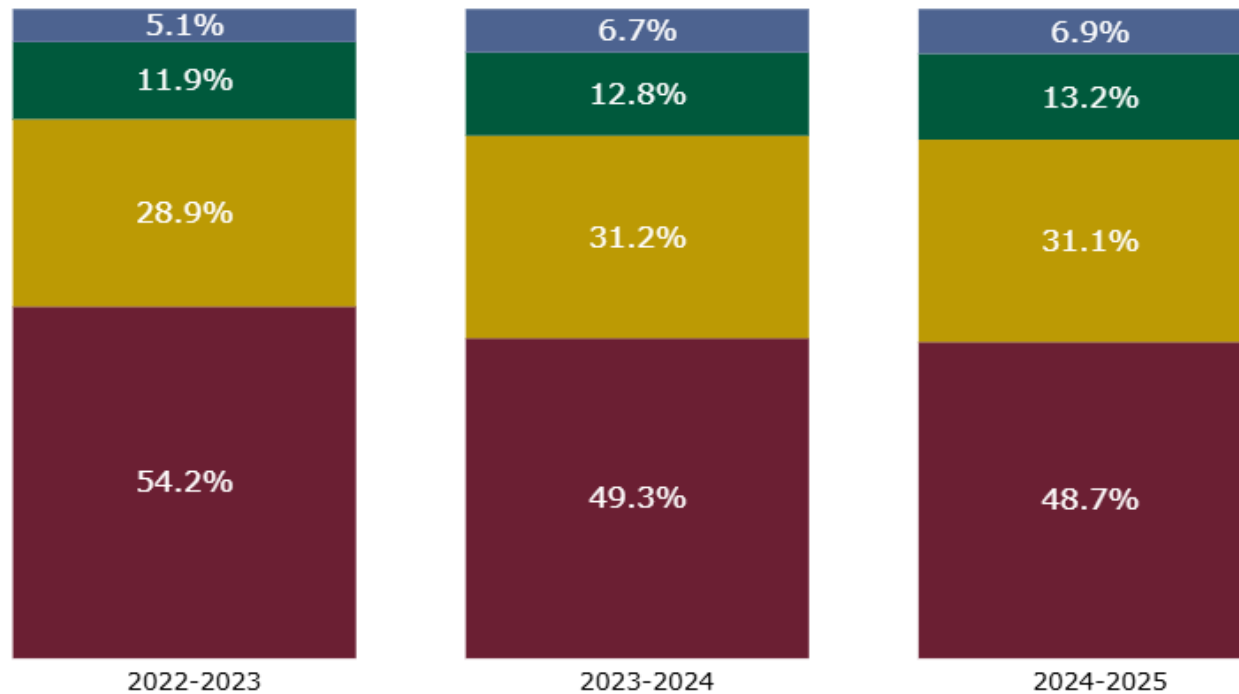


Celebrations: Milestones Math



All Administration Distribution of Proficiency Levels

● Beginning ● Developing ● Proficient ● Distinguished





THANK YOU

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