

## ***Math Trailblazers in Wake County Public Schools***

The Elementary Mathematics Adoption Committee (teachers and administrators) unanimously recommended *Math Trailblazers*, published by Kendall-Hunt, for district-wide adoption at grades K-5 beginning in the 2004-05 school year. All textbook evaluations submitted by classroom teachers were reviewed by the committee. *Math Trailblazers* was selected because of the quality and rigor of student tasks, structures for differentiation within the classroom, and correlation to *NC Standard Course of Study* and *National Council of Teachers of Mathematics* (NCTM) standards. *Math Trailblazers* supports the district goals for high achievement and growth for all students, including Level IV, by promoting active engagement, skill development, conceptual understanding, and higher level thinking to solve problems and explore ideas. Computation remains an important component of the mathematics program.

Program strengths include:

- Alignment with new, more rigorous 2003 *Standard Course of Study for Mathematics*, based on NCTM Principles and Standards and the objectives to be assessed by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP),
- Alignment of school and central level professional development,
- Alignment of curricular resources to meet the expectations of *No Child Left Behind* legislation, thereby closing the achievement gap (*e.g.*, pacing guides, instructional calendars, and classroom assessments),
- Alignment with current K-2 Mathematics Quarterly and Summative Assessment provided by the NC Department of Public Instruction,
- Alignment with the standards-based grading initiative,
- Consistency in instruction across grade levels, within schools and across the district to insure equitable opportunities for success in more challenging mathematics,
- Consistent with instructional practices already used in WCPSS
- Hands-on, real life activities
- Balanced instruction (computation and problem solving
- Information with support for families.

During the spring and summer of 2004, teachers received training in the use of *Math Trailblazers*. The district continues to offer additional training and support for teachers.

Parents can read more about the NC Standard Course of Study at [learnnc.org](http://learnnc.org). and about *Math Trailblazers* at [www.mathtrailblazers.com](http://www.mathtrailblazers.com).

To read more about best practices in mathematics education, go to [nctm.org](http://nctm.org) (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics).