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PRES Associates research shows that middle school students using Prentice Hall Mathematics achieve greater success in mathematics

Results of our independent research indicate that students using Prentice Hall Mathematics Course 2 showed significant improvement, outperforming students using other mathematics programs. PRES Associates, Inc., is a national educational evaluation firm headquartered in Jackson, WY. The randomized control trial confirmed students using the Prentice Hall curricula showed greater improvement from pre- to post-tests than their counterparts using other programs as measured by two different standardized assessments. Improvement was evident on all mathematics objectives measured. Additionally, the program was especially effective with low-performing students.

The study is part of a multi-year research effort commissioned by the publisher and is one of many slated to evaluate the effectiveness of Prentice Hall's educational materials across disciplines and grade levels. Participants represented a mix of urban and urban-fringe districts with diverse socio-economic, ethnic, and academic backgrounds.

Key findings—

- Student performance significantly improved from the beginning of the school year to its end as measured by the TerraNova Basic Multiple Assessment, chosen because it is aligned to national NCTM standards and has proven reliability and validity.
- Students using Prentice Hall Mathematics Course 2 improved to a greater extent in pre- to post-test scores than those using other programs.
- Assessment results suggest that Prentice Hall Mathematics Course 2 is particularly effective with low-performing students, as evidenced by the significant gains in low-performing student test scores.
- Prentice Hall Mathematics Course 2 students reported feeling significantly more comfortable with math than students using other programs. They also reported higher math aspirations (i.e., plans to take advanced math in high school).
- Teachers participating in the study reported that Prentice Hall Mathematics Course 2 provided significantly better assistance than other programs in the following areas (1) individualizing instruction, (2) reinforcing previously taught concepts, (3) providing test preparation, and (4) making connections to real-life.
- Teachers identified many aspects of the Prentice Hall program as effective, including the Guided Problem Solving workbook, Check Skills You'll Need exercises, and Check Understanding exercises.

The study was designed to fully meet the evidence criteria put forth by the What Works Clearinghouse, the Federal agency established in 2002 to provide the educators and the public with a trusted source of scientific evidence of what works in education. This study was designed so that accurate and appropriate inferences could be made regarding the effectiveness of the Prentice Hall Mathematics Course 2 program.

Respectfully submitted,

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President and Director of Research & Evaluation