

Exploring the Labyrinth that is the Common Core

Introduction

There is a problem at Westerville North High School (WNHS) and in Westerville City Schools (WCS) concerning the overhaul of the mathematics curriculum, specifically: *“To what degree do students and math teachers at WNHS understand and accept the new math Common Core State Standards?”* The CC is a new mathematics curriculum that is being put into most schools across the United States. The CC mathematics curriculum is aimed at getting students to focus on understanding math instead of just memorizing formulas. The rapid implementation of these changes has resulted in confusion about the difference between CC and College Preparatory Mathematics (CPM), both of which are now operational at WNHS. Still, what is consistent is the fact that the students’ dislike of CC/CPM centers on the group work component. The mixed feelings on the CC are due to whether the CC is effective in helping students learn more efficiently. This issue on the CC is important because it directly affects the learning of this generation and the future of the country. This issue is also important because without a solid math foundation, it is hard for people to contribute to their society. The researchers’ vision for a better future is an effective and helpful math curriculum that is easy for students to learn and that prepares them to one day compete on a global scale. A good curriculum is one that helps students feel like they are learning in a way that is easy to understand, is efficient, and teaches them useful information pertinent to daily life and any career options they wish to pursue in the future.