

## TOOLS FOR SUCCESS

— Implementing Exemplars —

For more than 25 years, Exemplars has worked with schools and districts to integrate performance-based assessment and instruction into math curriculum. Below are specific lessons learned that can help ensure your students' and school's success in developing problem-solving, communication, and reasoning skills.

### 1. GET PRINCIPAL SUPPORT

- When principals and school administrators expect programs to be utilized and define standards for accountability, programs have a much higher success rate.

### 2. EMBED SPECIFIC TASKS DIRECTLY INTO YOUR MATH CURRICULUM SCOPE AND SEQUENCE FOR EACH GRADE

- Place specific tasks directly into your pacing guide.
- Develop a regular rhythm and routine. Establish how often and when problem-solving tasks should be utilized.
- Define how many tasks teachers should do per week, month, unit and year.

### 3. USE THE EXEMPLARS ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

- Our standards-based rubric criteria defines the skills of strong mathematicians.
- Scoring rationales accompany our student anchor papers (associated with summative assessments). These summaries describe why each piece of student work is assessed at a specific performance level for each of the five rubric criterion.
  - Scoring rationales are meant to provide guidelines for teachers as they assess their own students' work.
  - Our anchor papers provide both students and teachers with examples of what high-quality work looks like.



#### 4. USE ANCHOR PAPERS IN STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- Incorporate Exemplars student anchor papers as part of your next staff development session. As a team, use the Exemplars Assessment Rubric to score individual pieces of work taken from our math Library. Compare your scores to ours. Compare your scores to each other's.
- Scoring calibration can lead to insightful conversations about areas of focus for instruction, feedback and curriculum initiatives.

#### 5. BRING STUDENT WORK TO STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- Ask teachers to bring full class sets of their students' work.
- Take a professional look at how students are doing. Look for patterns in areas of strength, areas to focus on for improvement, and define next steps for teachers, grades and the school.
- Review 3-4 sets of student work per year. Find areas of growth, reasons to celebrate, and areas to improve.
- Set goals for next steps with your students.

#### 6. REVIEW EXEMPLARS GETTING STARTED MATERIALS IN THE EXEMPLARS LIBRARY

- Created by teachers, our Getting Started materials, modeling videos and classroom resources provide guidelines and support for how to use performance tasks.

#### 7. SHARE ANCHOR PAPERS AND KID-FRIENDLY RUBRICS WITH STUDENTS

- Each summative assessment task includes student work samples at the four performance levels of our rubric along with scoring rationales.
- These valuable resources demonstrate and explain for students what it looks like to meet (and not meet) the standard.

#### 8. BRING AN EXEMPLARS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT TO YOUR SCHOOL

- Exemplars workshops help strengthen educators' teaching practices by offering effective instructional and assessment techniques for performance-based learning.
- Our math sessions present the skills needed to help teachers become successful with problem solving, performance tasks and formative assessments.
- For two decades, our workshops have helped thousands of teachers bridge the gap between the written standards and classroom application.

