

Imagine Math in Pennsylvania: Increased Proficiency on the PSSA Math Assessment

What is Imagine Math?

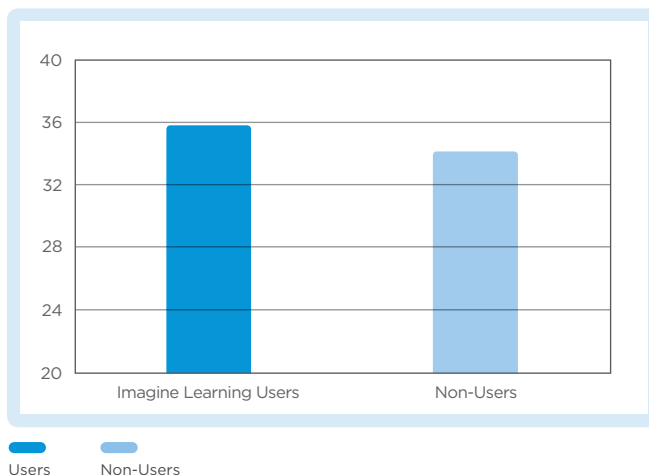
Imagine Math is instructional software designed to build math skills among students in grades 3–8, up through algebra and geometry. To improve math achievement, Imagine Math features formative assessments, 500+ interactive lessons, live, on-demand one-on-one instruction from certified math teachers, and benchmark assessments powered by The Quantile Framework. The program aligns with educational standards and addresses skills students need to become proficient in mathematics.

The Study

The objective of this study was to determine the effectiveness of the Imagine Math program in improving PSSA Math performance in Pennsylvania schools and thereby fulfill ESSA requirements for evidence of effectiveness. Data was obtained from 225 schools that used Imagine Math and 2,168 schools that did not use the program during the 2016–2017 school year.

- Data such as school-level 2016–2017 PSSA Math assessment, gender ratio, ELL status, low income percent, and prior year performance was obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of Education website (<http://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Assessment%20and%20Accountability/Pages/default.aspx>).
- Schools that used Imagine Math were statistically matched with three, highly similar, non-using schools using propensity score matching.
- The average effect of Imagine Math use was estimated by statistically comparing the percent of students who achieved a PSSA placement of Proficient or Advanced in schools that used Imagine Math to schools that did not use the program.

Percent of Students Who Achieved Proficient or Advanced on the PSSA Math Assessment



Results

Pennsylvania schools that used Imagine Math during the 2016–2017 school year had, on average, 1.8% more students achieve a PSSA Math placement of Proficient or Advanced than non-using schools.

These differences were statistically significant.

Conclusions

Use of the Imagine Math program during the 2016–2017 school year is associated with significant increases in performance on the PSSA Math assessment. It is likely that Pennsylvania schools that adopt the Imagine Math program would enjoy similar gains.