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Alabama Numeracy Act Reflection

I think that teachers being given more supports to teach a subject as complex and as critical as math is so important. In order for students to receive the help they need in order to succeed, their teachers must also be supported. How can we as teachers be expected to adequately support our students if we are not supported ourselves? I believe the bill stating that teachers will get that support will not only positively impact those teachers but positively impact students as well– maybe even more so than teachers. I also really like the idea of the removal of common core standards because it gives the state and schools more freedom to create and adjust standards that they see fit for their students instead of taking a “one size fits all” approach.

I absolutely love the idea of each public elementary school in the state of Alabama having a Math Coach. At my public school in Louisiana, we have a team of amazing math interventionists which is so helpful for our struggling math students.These interventionists work with a group of students everyday for forty-five minutes. It shows in our data how effective these interventionists have been for our students. Almost all of of the students that have worked with these interventionists have shown major improvement in their math performance after receiving those interventions. Having a Math Coach on our team would make this even better because at this time, our interventionists must go to conferences or take courses in their own time to get the support and training they need. Having a Math Coach on campus would make it much easier for them to get that training and have daily help. This coach would also be beneficial for to math teachers because he or she could monitor, observe, and support these teachers then provide them with advice and resources that they believe would improve their teaching and their students’ success in math. This coach could also help with creating assessments and tests and guide teachers through their decision making process on those.

I love that math benchmarks are provided through this act and that students will be closely monitored to see if they are meeting those benchmarks. I believe that the Summer Math Academy for those under-performing students is an excellent idea because students will be less likely to be behind when entering the next grade level. During the academy, the students will be able to brush up on those skills that they struggled with during the previous school year. I also think that it is great that schools and teachers are being held accountable due to them being closely monitored by the state. Although this may be intimidating and annoying, I truly believe it will make schools aim for success. I also think it is great that these programs will be funded. I believe that more schools would have already had summer programs and interventions in place if they had the funding for it. My school in Louisiana has a summer program, but only thirty children per grade level can join. Any student that is failing is required to attend, so that leaves very little room for the under-performing children that really could benefit from summer school but are not necessarily failing. With more funding and more support from the state, I am sure that my school would take as many students as they felt would benefit from it.

Overall, I believe that the Alabama Numeracy Act will be a great addition to Alabama public elementary schools. I believe that a lot of children that are possibly being overlooked right now or in the past will now be able to get the help they need. I truly believe that less children will fall through the cracks with the passing of this act. I am very curious to see how this act affects the math performance of students across the state.