

JUST FOR TEACHERS UPDATES



#FLMathAware
2018

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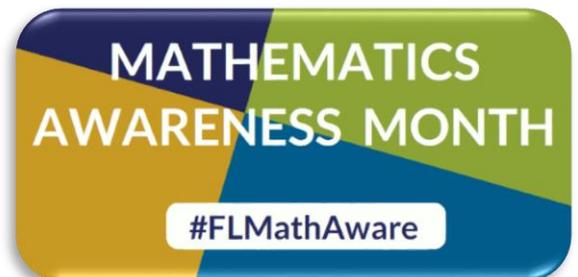
Florida Educators,

Mathematics is an important driver of innovation in our technological world, and the need for employees with strong math skills is growing. In fact, the Bureau and Labor Statistics projected overall employment of mathematicians and statisticians to grow 33 percent from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations.

To ensure Florida students are prepared to meet the increased workforce demands in math-related fields, we are focusing on the progression of algebraic thinking from elementary through high school. Algebraic thinking encourages students to not only solve problems, but also to understand the relationships between numbers, operational symbols and letters. [Steve Wyborney](#), teacher and instructional coach, demonstrates how 5×9 is more than (simply) 45 in this [short video](#).

Florida has made great strides, evidenced by last week's [NAEP results](#), and I have provided a few resources below to help guide your classroom planning and discussions as you strive for continued improvement.

- [CPALMS](#): Florida's rigorous standards have been essential to our success. With more than 12,000 free resources, CPALMS is a terrific way for educators and parents to support their students.
- [Mathematics Formative Assessment System \(MFAS\)](#) on CPALMS. The MFAS tasks are designed to provide feedback on how well a student understands a particular standard. The tasks provide a problem for students to solve, possible misconceptions, examples of student work and questions to elicit thinking. There are multiple MFAS tasks for each standard in mathematics. Head to CPALMS to check out how MFAS tasks can support your teaching.
- [Parent Resource Blog](#) on Florida Students Achieve will highlight a standard each week with aligned resources and examples to help parents engage their children.



These resources can help deepen algebraic thinking in your students. I would love for you to share how your class uses their algebraic thinking on Twitter with the #FLMathAware. Don't forget to tag [@EducationFL](#) and [@KellyZunkiewicz](#) in your posts.

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How Kids Benefit From Learning To Explain Their Math Thinking

[The Teaching Channel](#) was one of my most frequented resources as a teacher and the videos featured in [How Kids Benefit From Learning To Explain Their Math Thinking](#) emphasize the importance of explaining your thinking instead of just getting the “right answer.” Kindergarten teacher Donella Oleston and her students demonstrate the power of simple questions like:

- Why?
- What did he say?
- Which one doesn't belong?
- What do you think?

Acknowledging multiple correct answers and the students' explanation is at the heart of activities like [Same or Different](#) and [Which One Doesn't Belong](#). “Trying to make sense of

things, articulating our thinking, backing up our claims, engaging in other people's ideas, those are how people use math in the real world, and so we need to support young learners to engage in mathematics in that way from the very beginning. Five and six year olds are absolutely capable of doing so with the right activity structures and the right supports,” says Alison Fox, Teacher Educator at the University of Washington.

What structures and supports do you use in your classroom to get students to explain their thinking with evidence? Share with the JFT Community on Twitter with #JFTCommunity and tag [@EducationFL](#) and [@KellyZunkiewicz](#).



Florida School Volunteer Appreciation Month

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<http://bit.ly/2Elw2Ja>