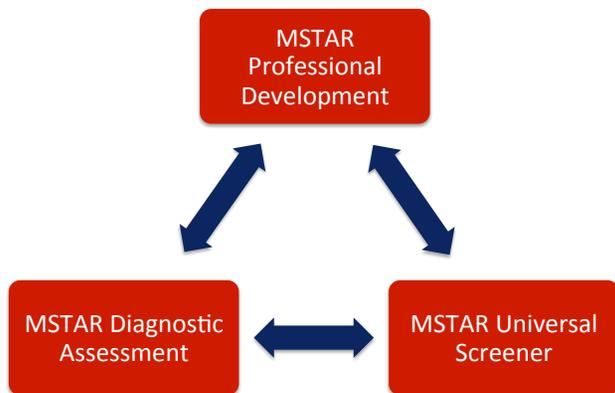


Some important facts...

- In 2012, 83% of students passed the Algebra I EOC exam... 57,681 students did not.
- In 2012, 65% of students passed the Algebra II EOC exam.
- The Newly Adopted TEKS, which will be implemented in the 2014 school year, will include algebra related strands in grades 6-8 that include mathematical process standards, number and operations, proportionality, expressions, equations, and relationships. It will also require grade 6 students to be fluent in integer operations, as well a multiplication and division of positive rational numbers and grade 7 students to be fluent in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of rational numbers.

About MSTAR

The MSTAR initiative is in collaboration with Education Service Center Region XIII and the Texas Education Agency. It began in the summer of 2010 with the goals of (1) improving overall mathematics instruction, and (2) impacting student achievement. MSTAR is comprised of three lead components structured and integrated to support students and teachers in grades five through eight to achieve mathematics success.



How Do I Get Access?

The MSTAR Universal Screener can be accessed through the Project Share Gateway at www.projectsharetexas.org. It can also be accessed directly at <http://mstar.epsilon.com>. This option will allow you to bypass the Project Share site entirely. Users will see an MSTAR icon after logging in. The same username and password is used for either option.



Research in Mathematics Education is a research and outreach unit of the SMU Simmons School of Education and Human Development with the goal of providing evidence-based support to improve students' mathematics achievement in North Texas and across the country.

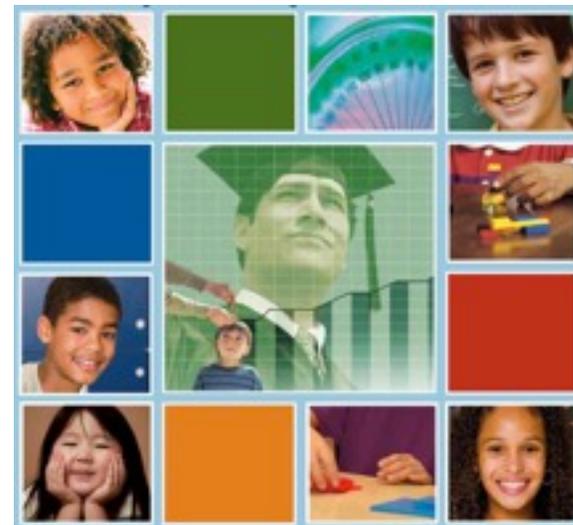
www.smu.edu/RME

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Middle School Students in Texas: Algebra Ready (MSTAR)



Texas Middle School Association Conference 2013

SMU Research in Mathematics Education
Savannah Hill, Marilea Jungman,
and Sharri Zachary

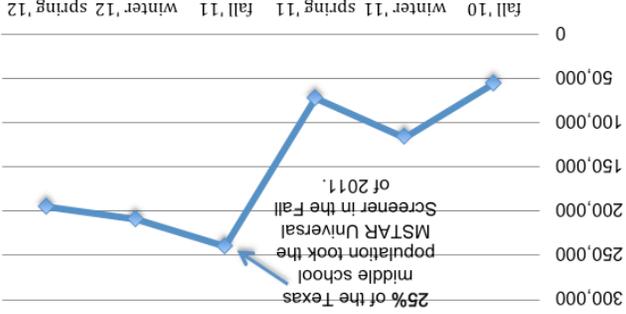
MSTAR Universal Screener

Designed to be administered to all students and identifies students' level of risk for not being ready for algebra.

- Launched in 2010 to 129 school districts, the MSTAR Universal Screener served 55,244 students in the fall, 115,847 in winter, and 72,022 in spring 2011, indicating year-end growth of 30%.
- During the 2011-12 school year, fall numbers increased significantly with 239,307 students participating in the assessment, trending down slightly in winter to 208,990, and 195,061 in spring reporting an 18% decline for the year but overall growth for the project of 170%.

MSTAR Universal Screener

Participation



- The Universal Screener helps teachers make two important decisions within the Response to Intervention (RTI) process:
 - Are students on-track or at-risk for meeting expectations in algebra and algebra-readiness?
 - What is the degree of intensity of instructional supports or supplemental interventions needed for students who are at-risk for not meeting expectations in algebra.
- Teachers monitor students' risk status by administering comparable forms of the MSTAR Universal Screener in fall, winter, and early spring.

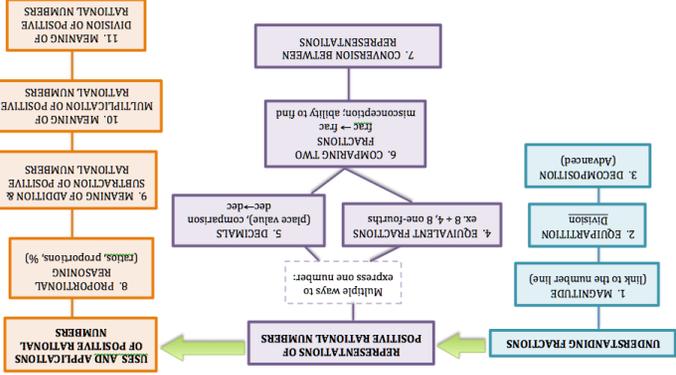
MSTAR Diagnostic Assessment

Identifies students who are "at risk" and provides "why" a student is struggling with a particular concept.

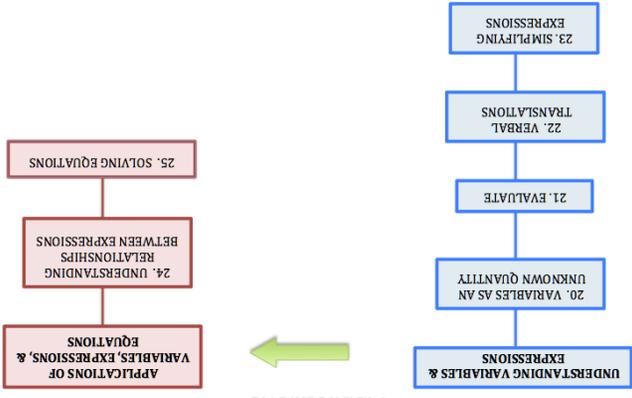
Designed to address those students identified as struggling in Tiers 2 and 3, the diagnostic assessment is given after the MSTAR Universal Screener and will inform educators where a student is on a learning progression and the underlying misconception(s) that caused the student to answer incorrectly. The reports provide information that can be used to plan supplemental instruction.

Key Algebra Related Content

Understanding Positive Rational Numbers, their Representations, and their Uses



Understanding Variables and Expressions, and their Applications



MSTAR Professional Development

Provides tools for delivering instruction to all students in achieving algebra readiness and supports informed decision-making based on the results of the MSTAR assessments.

MSTAR Professional Development academies were created to support teachings in preparing students for success in algebra. Trainings are available in face-to-face sessions and/or online. RME researchers, along with TEA, delivered Professional Development in three training sessions for the MSTAR project for the Texas Education Agency in spring and summer 2011 and 2012. The trainings were replicated across the state by certified trainers.

Professional Development Courses Available

- TEA MSTAR Introduction: An Executive Summary
- TEA MSTAR Academy I: Grades 5/6
- TEA MSTAR Academy I: Grades 7/8
- TEA MSTAR Academy I: Addressing the G/T Learner Through RtI
- TEA MSTAR Academy I: Addressing CCRS in Math
- TEA MSTAR I: Fraction/Decimal
- TEA MSTAR I: Lesson Study Model Implementation
- TEA MSTAR Academy II
- TEA MSTAR Universal Screener Overview 2.0
- MSTAR Implementation Tools Academy

