LAUNCH YEARS
Reimagining Mathematics Education

THE MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE

Now is the time to modernize high school math. The current state of mathematics education blocks too many of our students from reaching their potential. In fact, the Mathematical Association of America calls mathematics “the most significant barrier” to finishing a degree.

We aim to change mathematics from a barrier to a path toward greater opportunity for all. The Launch Years initiative will transform how students transition from the mathematics they learn in high school to the mathematics they need for college, career, and full participation in society.

For far too many students, math is a wall—not a way—to their postsecondary and career success.

Creating more equitable outcomes for all students

A college degree, postsecondary certificate of value, and education opportunities in the military are all keys that can provide opportunities for all students—particularly those who have not traditionally been well served by education systems.

Yet the current reality is that far too many of these students face systemic barriers on their paths to success.

Through Launch Years, we are reimagining mathematics education to put in place more relevant, rigorous math courses. We are simultaneously updating the math policies and practices that have traditionally created unnecessary barriers for those students who are Black, Latinx, Native American, and/or come from low-income backgrounds.

Today, there are states and systems already working to remove these structural barriers to student success—creating math pathways and practices that better prepare all students for the workplace and society.

In order to create true change, however, we need more states and systems to join this effort.

Every student learns rigorous and meaningful mathematics.

The mathematics courses in every high school are intentionally designed to propel students to a postsecondary option that will open the way to high-value careers.

Our nation benefits from a population of all races and all backgrounds that has the quantitative reasoning skills to fully participate in the economy and our society.

#LaunchYears
The Launch Years collaborative—led by the Charles A. Dana Center at The University of Texas at Austin, along with Education Strategy Group, Achieve, Community College Research Center, and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities—coordinates engagement at the local and regional levels which informs state- and national-level work.

Currently, Launch Years is working within three states—Georgia, Washington, and Texas—which all have previous experience and success in math pathways. These states have committed to creating clear, relevant pathways from high school mathematics into postsecondary courses and sharing their key learnings with states and districts around the country.

The Launch Years initiative is also bringing together key leaders through a nationally representative Consensus Panel. This panel includes representation from K–12, higher education, and business and industry with the goal of providing essential insights that can inform the Launch Years work—and helping us build the broad engagement needed to effect lasting and positive change.

Implementing aligned math pathways from high school into postsecondary—that support all students—will take time, coordination, and widespread commitment from individuals, groups, and institutions around the country.

A nationwide movement to shift mindsets, structures, and policies around mathematics education can significantly improve outcomes for all students—especially those who have faced systemic barriers to the high-quality education every student deserves.

By joining together in this movement, we can ensure that every student has the right math options to acquire the right math skills they need for future success.

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Learn More: utdanacenter.org/launch-years

Launch Years
an initiative of

The University of Texas at Austin
Charles A. Dana Center

Achieve
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Education Strategy Group

Community College Research Center
Teachers College, Columbia University

Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities

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