

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.



LAUNCH YEARS IS COMMITTED TO A VISION IN WHICH . . .

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.



LAUNCH YEARS IS FOCUSED ON CREATING A MORE SEAMLESS TRANSITION FOR STUDENTS IN THEIR CRITICAL “LAUNCH YEARS”—FROM GRADE 11 THROUGH THEIR FIRST YEAR OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.

“Focusing on that critical timeframe, the Launch Years initiative puts forward a fundamentally new approach to mathematics. It maintains the rigor needed for postsecondary degrees and high-demand jobs, while also creating new pathways for significantly more students—including those traditionally underserved—to thrive in college and realize their dreams.”

Philip Uri Treisman
Professor of Mathematics and
Executive Director,
The Charles A. Dana Center

THE LAUNCH YEARS APPROACH

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.

TOGETHER, WE CAN SUPPORT A BETTER FUTURE

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.

..... **LEARN MORE: UTDANACENTER.ORG/LAUNCHYEARS**

Launch Years
an initiative of



The University of Texas at Austin
Charles A. Dana Center

CCRC COMMUNITY COLLEGE
RESEARCH CENTER
TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



Education
Strategy
Group



ASSOCIATION OF
PUBLIC &
LAND-GRANT
UNIVERSITIES