# California Math Outcomes Analysis 2016/17

Grade Levels: 3, 4, 5 ST Math Program: Gen-4 Analysis Type: Z-score of scale score Treatment-Years: 2016/17 Baseline-Year: 2015/16 Subgroup: All Students

> Jessica Guise MIND Research Institute © 2017-10-31

#### Abstract

This analysis evaluates grades using ST Math in California in 2016/17. It identifies those grades with nominal or better implementation of the ST Math program, and matches them to randomly selected, similar math-performance comparison grades. The nominal ST Math users are an aggregation of 77 grades, consisting of grades 3, 4, and 5 at 46 schools, with an average baseline of 49% in Standard Met or Exceeded proficiency levels (refer to Figures 2 and 3 to see how your schools compare to those analyzed in this report). They were matched to 77 similar, randomly selected control grades at 77 schools that never used ST Math. Grade-wise growth in math proficiency was evaluated (i.e. growth in same grade, same school, from 2015/16 to 2016/17) on the percentage proficient, scale scores, and Z-scores of the scale scores (see Section 3.1). Grades 3, 4, and 5 aggregated showed an ST Math effect of 5.79 points at the Standard Met or Exceeded levels, 1.71 points at the Standard Met Level, 3.97 points at the Standard Exceeded Level, and Z-score of 0.26.

# Contents

1	Introduction         1.1       Background         1.2       Program Description	<b>5</b> 5 5
2	Data Collection	6
	2.1 Proficiency Levels Definition	6
	2.2 Treatment Grades Pool and Selection	6
	2.3 Control Grades Pool and Selection	7
3	Data Analysis	8
	3.1 Z-scores	8
	3.2 Percentile Ranking	8
	3.3 Final Treatment and Control	9
	3.3.1 ST Math Grade-Aggregated Implementation ( $\geq 85\%$ Enrollment Grades	
	$Only)  \dots  \dots  \dots  \dots  \dots  \dots  \dots  \dots  \dots  $	9
	3.3.2 Filtering Treatment and Controls	10
	3.3.3 Match of Controls to Treatment	11
	3.4 Grade-Aggregated Analysis	13
	3.5 Grade-Level Analysis	17
	3.5.1 Grade Level Result Tables	17
	3.5.2 $$ Grade-Level Analysis of Changes in Math Standard Met or Exceeded $$ .	18
	3.5.3 Grade-Level Analysis of Changes in CAASPP Math scale scores $\ldots$	19
	3.5.4 $$ Grade-Level Analysis of Changes in CAASPP Z-scores of scale scores $$ .	20
4	Effect Size	<b>21</b>
5	Findings Summary	<b>21</b>
6	Confounders	<b>21</b>
7	Reference Tables Grouped By School Year	23
8	Lists of Schools	<b>24</b>
	8.1 Treatment Schools	24
	8.2 Control Schools	25

# List of Figures

1	Histogram of ST Math Percent Progress for $\geq 85\%$ Enrollment Grades 2016/17	9
2	Baseline Year Density Plots Showing Math Scores Match between TRT and	
	CTRL - 2015/16	11
3	Baseline Year Density Plot Showing Student Need Match between TRT and CTRL	12
4	Change at each Proficiency Level for Grade-Aggregated TRT and CTRL Datasets	
	between $2015/16$ and $2016/17$	13
5	Changes in CAASPP Math scale scores and Z-scores (See Section 3.1) for Grade-	
	Aggregated TRT and CTRL datasets between $2015/16$ and $2016/17$	14
6	Changes in Standard Met or Exceeded for Grade-Aggregated TRT and CTRL	
	datasets between $2015/16$ and $2016/17$	15
7	Changes in Percentile Ranking for TRT and CTRL Datasets between $2015/16$	
	and $2016/17$	16
8	Changes in Percent of Students at Standard Met or Exceeded for TRT and	
	CTRL Datasets between $2015/16$ and $2016/17$	18
9	Changes in Grade-Mean CAASPP Math scale score for TRT and CTRL Datasets	
	between 2015/16 and 2016/17	19
10	Changes in Grade-Mean CAASPP Z-score (See Section 3.1) for TRT and CTRL	
	Datasets between $2015/16$ and $2016/17$	20

# List of Tables

1	Proficiency Level Naming	6
2	Descriptive Statistics of ST Math Percent Progress for $>= 85$ percent Enrollment	
	Grades	9
3	Number of ST Math Grades with $>= 85$ percent Enrollment and with $>= 50$	
	percent progress	9
4	Treatment Pool Filtering and Controls: Counts of Grades, Schools, and Students	10
5	Matching TRT and CTRL	12
6	Yearly Math Proficiency and Counts for TRT and CTRL Grade-Aggregated	
	Datasets	13
7	Statistics for the Differential Changes in Math Scores Growth (TRT - CTRL) .	15
8	Grade 3 - Yearly Math Performance and Counts for TRT and CTRL Datasets	17
9	Grade 4 - Yearly Math Performance and Counts for TRT and CTRL Datasets	17
10	Grade 5 - Yearly Math Performance and Counts for TRT and CTRL Datasets	17
11	Statistics for the Differential Changes in Standard Met or Exceeded, (TRT -	
	CTRL)	18
12	Statistics for the Differential Changes in CAASPP Math scale scores Growth,	
	(TRT - CTRL)	19
13	Statistics for the Differential Changes in CAASPP Z-scores (See Section 3.1)	
	Growth, (TRT - CTRL)	20
14	Cohen's d Effect Size	21
15	TRT Grades Detail Sorted by Year	23
16	CTRL Grades Detail Sorted by Year	23
17	Treatment Schools (TRT Dataset)	24
18	Matched Control Schools (CTRL Dataset)	25
19	Matched Control Schools (CTRL Dataset)	26

### 1 Introduction

#### 1.1 Background

This is a quasi-experimental analysis at the grade-mean level. Entire grades represent the units of analysis, and outcome measures are the 1-year changes in grade-mean CAASPP Standard Met or Exceeded percentages. The treatment grades used the ST Math program for 1 year, beginning in the 2016/17 school year. The study hypothesis is treatment grades using ST Math will outperform similar matched control grades, using their "business as usual" conditions of instructional content and professional development. The control grades were selected to have similar demographic, math, and economically disadvantaged attributes to the treatment grades during the baseline year (2015/16), and did not use ST Math in 2016/17, and 2016/17. The treatment grades' selection pool was all schools using ST Math in grades 3, 4, and 5 in California. The control grades' pool was all schools not using ST Math in grades 3, 4, and 5 in California. This study method measures effectiveness of the ST Math program when nominally implemented.

### 1.2 Program Description

The ST Math program is a supplemental math program covering grade-level California math standards. The ST Math content consists of visual representations of math standards, concepts, and procedures, presented to students as "Puzzles" of virtual manipulatives, with which they interact to pose solutions. Each time the student poses a solution, the computer visually animates the Puzzle, diagram, or symbols to show why the posed solution correctly solves, or why it does not solve, the math problem (puzzle). The Puzzles are arranged into sequential groups, called "Levels". To proceed to the next Level in sequence, the student needs to master his/her current Level. Mastering a Level requires solving 100% of the math problems, or Puzzles correctly. In this way, the program is self-paced. Students must correctly solve approximately 4-12 Puzzles, with only 1 failure and retry allowed, to proceed. Levels are sequenced together into Games and, again, the student must master each Game to get to the next Game in sequence. Games are sequenced into "Learning Objectives" (e.g. 'Fractions Concepts'). The ST Math curriculum of approximately 20-25 Learning Objectives can be rearranged in a year-long, grade-level syllabus to match district math pacing through the school year.

The Puzzles typically start with concrete representations of the math, without abstract symbols, math vocabulary, or even English words. Gradually, through subsequent Levels or Games, abstractions are introduced. For example, a Puzzle might start with "n" green blocks on the screen, and then at a subsequent Level may represent the quantity with the numeral for "n" (no green blocks anymore). In this way, three things are accomplished: i) language proficiency prerequisites to engage with the program are minimal, ii) non-mathematical distractions (e.g. back-stories for word problems) are minimized or eliminated – thereby reducing load on working memory, and iii) the actual math in the problem can be represented clearly, simply, and unambiguously.

Besides the self-paced progress made by students in their one-to-one environment, the program is designed to be referenced by teachers during their regular math instruction. It is supplemental to core or basal math instruction and instructional materials. As the great majority of grade-level math standards are covered in the ST Math digital curriculum, completion of 100% of the entire ST Math curriculum (i.e. completing every Game) is required to cover all grade-level math standards.

Teachers receive initial training, either face to face or through self-guided online instruction. The training covers account startup, as well as math learning and growth mindset goals, the pedagogical

approach to learning in a visual experiential game, monitoring and intervention of the student 1:1 game play, and connecting of ST Math content to classroom content and pacing.

To achieve nominal progress through the program, there is a time-on-task requirement. While student progress rates through the program vary, MIND Research Institute has found that consistent application of 90 minutes per week throughout the school year is sufficient to get most students through at least half of the ST Math Learning Objectives. Students are recommended to use the program in school for at least two 45-minute sessions per week, or 90 minutes per week, over about 35 weeks. Analyses of ST Math usage have shown that consistently following this schedule throughout the school year is usually sufficient to achieve 50% or more Progress through ST Math content. Progress is a percentage of ST Math content coverage, and is defined as Levels completed by the student, divided by the total number of Levels in the curriculum. In addition, MIND's historical analyses have shown that it is necessary to complete at least 50% of the program in order to expect significantly higher performance compared to non-users.

# 2 Data Collection

Since this analysis uses grades as the unit of analysis, and states publish grade-mean state standardized test scores, the data for student math outcomes is collected from each state education agency's research files (retrieved from state websites). The treatment students use ST Math student accounts served by MIND. Student ST Math usage data is aggregated to grade-level means by MIND.

#### 2.1 Proficiency Levels Definition

The following (Table 1) is California's proficiency level descriptions:

Proficiency Level	State Proficiency Level Name
L1	Standard Not Met
L2	Standard Nearly Met
L3	Standard Met
L4	Standard Exceeded

Table 1: Proficiency Level Naming

#### 2.2 Treatment Grades Pool and Selection

The Treatment grades pool originated with all schools and grades using ST Math in California. From these schools, every grade that had used the ST Math program only for the year 2016/17 was identified. They comprise the Treatment grades pool for this evaluation of 1-year usage.

Because the analysis uses grade-mean data, such as grade-mean scale scores or grade-mean proficiency level percentages, it is necessary that the program also be a grade-wide treatment, with the great majority of students in each grade receiving treatment. Otherwise, the grade-means reported by the state of 100% of *tested* students would not be valid measures of a smaller fraction of *treatment* students. MIND's site implementation requirement is that an entire grade, including all teachers and all classes within that grade, use the ST Math program. We validate how closely

this is the case for each individual treatment grade by comparing the number of ST Math student accounts at a grade level to the California's reported enrollment at that grade level. We discard from the Treatment pool any grade with a ratio of ST Math student accounts to reported grade enrollment lower than 85%.

Furthermore, the outcomes measure is a summative year-end test, i.e. California's standardized math assessment (CAASPP). The math assessment thus covers all the math standards for that entire grade level. Meanwhile, the ST Math program curriculum (arranged into Learning Objectives) is also aligned to California math standards. To infer that the ST Math content is having a valid effect on student outcomes on the summative assessment, we discard any grade with grade-mean of ST Math Progress for its students lower than 50% by year-end.

Progress is a percentage, and is defined as Levels completed by the student, divided by the total number of Levels in the grade-level curriculum. Note that student achievement of at least 50% progress in ST Math is accomplished primarily by teacher assignment of computer session time to students. With sufficient time on task, students make progress. The program helps them self-pace through providing real-time informative feedback for each puzzle.

#### 2.3 Control Grades Pool and Selection

The control grades are randomly selected from a control pool of schools in California. Though they are randomly selected, they are also matched to be similar to the Treatment grades' math attributes and demographics during the baseline 2015/16 year. The matched attributes include:

- scale score
- student percentages at each math proficiency level
- percentage of students receiving free or reduced lunch (using the demographic data from MDR).

To mitigate the risk of randomly picking a set of Control grades that generates an outlier for effect, a Monte Carlo approach is used to perform many random picks. The control pool's size is large enough that there are many possible "picks" of closely matched control grades.

One hundred randomly matched picks are made and sets of matched control grades are generated. For each set, the quality of the match as well as the math growth of the potential control set is evaluated. Some picked sets have high average math growth, some have low average math growth. From the set of all picks, a median pick is chosen. This avoids either an unlikely overestimate, or underestimate, of the Control grades' growth. When multiple median picks exist, the control set with the minimal math score differences in the baseline year is chosen.

# 3 Data Analysis

The set of all schools and grades using ST Math in California is evaluated for Enrollment percentage and Progress percentage parameters. A filtered Treatment set (TRT) of all ST Math grades with  $\geq 85\%$  Enrollment and  $\geq 50\%$  Progress is identified. State math assessment data is tabulated. A matching set of Control grades based on baseline year state math assessment is selected.

Changes in math performance, i.e. the difference in math performance of a grade from a baseline year to the final year, are evaluated and tabulated. Statistical tests of the significance of the difference in math performance changes between Treatment grades and Control grades are performed. Finally, a grade-by-grade disaggregation is performed.

#### 3.1 Z-scores

When states change their state assessment throughout the years, they also change the range of possible scale scores achieved on the exam. This makes it difficult to compare changes in grade mean scale scores across years with a different exam. To deal with this issue, a new Z-score is calculated. For each year being analyzed, by grade, a Z-score takes the difference of the grade mean scale score and the mean of all scale scores statewide for that year, and then divides it by the standard deviation of all scale scores statewide for that year. Here is a fictional example to illustrate the calculation of a Z-score for the 2015/16 exam:

School A, Grade 3, Mean scale score: 300

Average across all schools statewide, Grade 3: 350

Standard deviation across all schools statewide, Grade 3: 30

Z-score=((School A, Grade 3, Mean scale score)-(Average across all schools, Grade 3))/(Standard deviation across all schools, Grade 3)

$$\text{Z-score} = \frac{300 - 350}{30} = -1.67$$

The Z-score is calculated for every grade across all years being analyzed, using the full state data set of California schools for the averages and standard deviations. The use of Z-scores is a valid statistical method to normalize any dataset and to enable analysis across otherwise uncomparable exams. In this report, we will include both mean scale scores and their accompanying Z-scores.

#### 3.2 Percentile Ranking

These newly calculated z-scores can then be converted into a percentile ranking. Each percentile ranking shows the grade's performance relative to the others in that year and grade. For example, for a specific grade 3, a percentile ranking of 50 shows that this grade 3 performed at the average of all third grades in the state for that testing year.

3.3.1 ST Math Grade-Aggregated Implementation ( $\geq 85\%$  Enrollment Grades Only)



ST Math Percent Grade Mean Progress Distribution – 2016/17

Figure 1: Histogram of ST Math Percent Progress for  $\geq 85\%$  Enrollment Grades 2016/17

For all ST Math grades with Enrollment  $\geq 85\%$ , Figure 1 shows the frequency distribution of grade-average Progress percentage through the program. Note that we will only be using grades with  $\geq 50\%$  Progress as the Treatment Group.

Table 2 provides descriptive statistics of the Progress distribution. Table 3 shows the number of remaining treatment grades after applying enrollment and progress filters.

	Min.	Max.	Average	S.D.
ST Math % Progress	0.0	85.3	30.4	17.7

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics of ST Math Percent Progress for >= 85 percent Enrollment Grades

Grades with $>= 85\%$ Enrollment:	511
Grades with in addition $>= 50\%$ Progress:	77

Table 3: Number of ST Math Grades with >= 85 percent Enrollment and with >= 50 percent progress

#### 3.3.2 Filtering Treatment and Controls

Table 4 shows the total number of grades in the Treatment pool, the number of grades that exceeded the 85% Enrollment figure, and also the 50% Progress filter. Other rows in the table indicate counts of numbers of students (2016/17 from state testing count) and counts of number of schools represented. The number of matched Control (CTRL) grades, students, and schools is also shown.

	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Total
ST Math Using Grades	197	204	208	609
ST Math Using Schools	197	204	208	227
ST Math Students	15020	15878	16333	47231
ST Math Grades (Enroll $\geq 85\%$ )	171	171	169	511
TRT Grades (Enroll $>= 85\%$ & Prog $>= 50\%$ )	30	24	23	77
TRT Schools (Enroll $\geq 85\%$ & Prog $\geq 50\%$ )	30	24	23	46
TRT Students (Enroll $>= 85\%$ & Prog $>= 50\%$ )	2517	1930	1934	6381
CTRL Grades	30	24	23	77
CTRL Schools	30	24	23	77
CTRL Students	2328	1957	2048	6333

Table 4: Treatment Pool Filtering and Controls: Counts of Grades, Schools, and Students

#### 3.3.3 Match of Controls to Treatment

Figure 2 shows the density plot of the baseline CAASPP Math scale scores (left plot) and baseline percent students at CAASPP Standard Met or Exceeded (right plot) for treatment grades overlayed on control grades, showing the closeness of the match obtained between Treatment and Control sets of grades in the baseline year, 2015/16.



Standard Met or Exceeded 2015/16 - TRT vs CTR



Figure 2: Baseline Year Density Plots Showing Math Scores Match between TRT and CTRL - 2015/16

Similarly, figure 3 shows the density plot of the percentage of students needing free or reduced lunch for treatment grades overlayed on control grades, showing the closeness of the match obtained between Treatment and Control sets of grades.



% Student Need – TRT vs CTRL

% Student Need Distribution

Figure 3: Baseline Year Density Plot Showing Student Need Match between TRT and CTRL

Table 5 shows the difference of the means of Treatment versus Control in the baseline year, with accompanying p-values, for percent Standard Met or Exceeded, for mean scale score, and for percent of students receiving free or reduced lunch. The large p-values show the differences between the Treatment and Control grades are not statistically significant.

	Mean(TRT)	SD(TRT)	Mean(CTRL)	SD(CTRL)	Estimate	P-Value
Standard Met or Exceeded - 2015/16	48.65	20.47	47.39	19.83	1.26	0.70
Scale score - $2015/16$	2472.42	46.43	2470.91	45.38	1.51	0.84
Percent Free or Reduced Lunch	49.25	24.37	49.27	25.09	-0.03	0.99

Table 5: Matching TRT and CTRL

#### 3.4 Grade-Aggregated Analysis

Table 6 shows for both Treatment (TRT) and Control (CTRL) aggregation across grades of scale scores, Z-scores, and proficiency level distributions. The far right column also shows the average ST Math Progress for the TRT set.

	# Grades	# Schools	# Students	Scale score	Z-score	Percentile	L1	L2	L3	L4	Standard Met or Exceeded	ST Math Per Co
TRT.15.16	77	46	6256	2472.4	0.32	60.52	24.34	26.88	25.43	23.31	48.65	_
TRT.16.17	77	46	6157	2483.0	0.65	67.96	21.08	24.31	26.64	27.97	54.62	61.58
TRT.Delta	_	_	_	10.6	0.33	7.44	-3.26	-2.57	1.21	4.66	5.97	_
CTRL.15.16	77	77	6661	2470.9	0.30	59.92	23.78	28.84	25.71	21.65	47.39	_
CTRL.16.17	77	77	6333	2470.6	0.37	59.91	24.66	27.78	25.22	22.35	47.56	_
CTRL.Delta	_	_	_	-0.3	0.07	-0.01	0.88	-1.06	-0.50	0.70	0.17	_

Table 6: Yearly Math Proficiency and Counts for TRT and CTRL Grade-Aggregated Datasets

The following chart (Figure 4) shows the changes in percentage of students at each math proficiency level for the grade-aggregated Treatment and Control sets (TRT.delta and CTRL.delta).



Figure 4: Change at each Proficiency Level for Grade-Aggregated TRT and CTRL Datasets between 2015/16 and 2016/17



Similarly, Figure 5 shows the changes in CAASPP Math scale scores and changes in Z-scores for the grade-aggregated Treatment and Control sets.

Figure 5: Changes in CAASPP Math scale scores and Z-scores (See Section 3.1) for Grade-Aggregated TRT and CTRL datasets between 2015/16 and 2016/17

Further, Figure 6 shows the changes in percent of students at CAASPP Standard Met or Exceeded for the grade-aggregated Treatment and Control sets.



Changes in Standard Met or Exceeded 2016/17 vs 2015/16

Figure 6: Changes in Standard Met or Exceeded for Grade-Aggregated TRT and CTRL datasets between 2015/16 and 2016/17

Finally, Table 7 shows the statistics for the *differences* in changes between TRT and CTRL (Treatment - Control) for these same CAASPP math proficiency and scale score changes as in the above figures.  $^1$ 

	Estimate	P-Value	Int.Low	Int.High
Standard Met or Exceeded	5.79	0.00*	1.93	9.66
scale score	10.85	0.00*	3.80	17.89
Z-score	0.26	0.00*	0.09	0.42
L1	-4.14	$0.02^{*}$	-7.48	-0.79
L2	-1.51	0.27	-4.21	1.19
L3	1.71	0.26	-1.26	4.69
L4	3.97	$0.01^{*}$	1.16	6.77

Table 7: Statistics for the Differential Changes in Math Scores Growth (TRT - CTRL)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1\*</sup> statistically significant p<0.05

Finally, Figure 7 shows the changes in mean percentile ranking between TRT and CTRL.



Mean Percentile Plot – TRT vs CTRL

Figure 7: Changes in Percentile Ranking for TRT and CTRL Datasets between 2015/16 and 2016/17

### 3.5 Grade-Level Analysis

#### 3.5.1 Grade Level Result Tables

The following tables (Table 8, 9, and 10) present a disaggregation of results by grade level. The far right column in each table also shows the average ST Math Progress for the TRT set.

	# Grades	# Schools	# Students	Scale score	Z-score	Percentile	L1	L2	L3	L4	Standard Met or Exceeded	ST Math Per Pr
TRT.15.16	30	30	2557	2448.4	0.42	63.57	19.57	21.67	31.77	26.80	58.57	_
TRT.16.17	30	30	2429	2459.0	0.80	72.13	17.92	18.29	31.57	32.22	63.79	59.31
TRT.Delta	_	_	_	10.5	0.38	8.57	-1.64	-3.38	-0.20	5.42	5.23	_
CTRL.15.16	30	30	2538	2444.8	0.36	61.97	20.07	23.90	31.50	24.47	55.97	_
CTRL.16.17	30	30	2328	2445.2	0.46	62.57	19.58	24.81	30.53	25.08	55.61	_
CTRL.Delta	_	_	_	0.4	0.10	0.60	-0.49	0.91	-0.97	0.61	-0.36	_

Table 8: Grade 3 - Yearly Math Performance and Counts for TRT and CTRL Datasets

	# Grades	# Schools	# Students	Scale score	Z-score	Percentile	L1	L2	L3	L4	Standard Met or Exceeded	ST Math Per Pr
TRT.15.16	24	24	1950	2467.4	0.13	54.71	25.83	32.79	23.75	17.62	41.25	_
TRT.16.17	24	24	1852	2481.6	0.47	63.25	20.13	29.46	27.66	22.76	50.42	65.07
TRT.Delta	_	_	_	14.2	0.33	8.54	-5.71	-3.34	3.91	5.14	9.17	_
CTRL.15.16	24	24	2038	2468.2	0.14	55.29	23.21	34.96	24.83	16.96	41.75	_
CTRL.16.17	24	24	1957	2470.4	0.21	55.50	24.68	32.08	25.56	17.68	43.25	_
CTRL.Delta	_	_	_	2.2	0.07	0.21	1.47	-2.88	0.73	0.73	1.50	_

Table 9: Grade 4 - Yearly Math Performance and Counts for TRT and CTRL Datasets

	# Grades	# Schools	# Students	Scale score	Z-score	Percentile	L1	L2	L3	L4	Standard Met or Exceeded	ST Math Per P
TRT.15.16	23	23	1749	2508.9	0.40	62.61	29.00	27.52	18.91	24.70	43.43	-
TRT.16.17	23	23	1876	2515.7	0.65	67.43	26.18	26.80	19.15	27.87	47.03	60.91
TRT.Delta	_	_	_	6.8	0.25	4.83	-2.82	-0.73	0.24	3.18	3.59	_
CTRL.15.16	23	23	2085	2507.8	0.38	62.09	29.22	28.91	19.09	22.87	42.09	_
CTRL.16.17	23	23	2048	2504.1	0.41	61.04	31.25	27.18	17.92	23.65	41.57	_
CTRL.Delta	_	_	_	-3.7	0.03	-1.04	2.04	-1.74	-1.17	0.78	-0.52	-

Table 10: Grade 5 - Yearly Math Performance and Counts for TRT and CTRL Datasets

#### 3.5.2Grade-Level Analysis of Changes in Math Standard Met or Exceeded

Figure 8 shows the difference in the growth of percentages of students at math Standard Met or Exceeded, for the TRT and CTRL datasets, disaggregated by grade:



Changes in Percent Standard Met or Exceeded – 2016/17 vs 2015/16

Figure 8: Changes in Percent of Students at Standard Met or Exceeded for TRT and CTRL Datasets between 2015/16 and 2016/17

Table 11 shows the statistics for the *differences* in changes between TRT and CTRL (Treatment - Control) for these same Standard Met or Exceeded math proficiency changes as shown in Figure 8.

	Estimate	P-Value	Int.Low	Int.High
Grade 3	5.58	0.1	-1.09	12.26
Grade 4	7.67	$0.02^{*}$	1.24	14.10
Grade 5	4.11	0.26	-3.23	11.44

Table 11: Statistics for the Differential Changes in Standard Met or Exceeded, (TRT - CTRL)

#### 3.5.3 Grade-Level Analysis of Changes in CAASPP Math scale scores

Figure 9 shows the changes in the grade-mean math scale scores of students for the TRT and CTRL datasets, disaggregated by grade:



Figure 9: Changes in Grade-Mean CAASPP Math scale score for TRT and CTRL Datasets between 2015/16 and 2016/17

Table 12 shows the statistics for the differences between TRT and CTRL (Treatment - Control) for these same CAASPP math scale score changes as shown in Figure 9.

	Estimate	P-Value	Int.Low	Int.High
Grade 3	10.18	0.06	-0.31	20.67
Grade 4	12.01	0.05	-0.14	24.16
Grade 5	10.51	0.17	-4.84	25.86

Table 12: Statistics for the Differential Changes in CAASPP Math scale scores Growth, (TRT - CTRL)

#### 3.5.4 Grade-Level Analysis of Changes in CAASPP Z-scores of scale scores

Figure 10 shows the changes in the grade-mean Z-scores of students for the TRT and CTRL datasets, disaggregated by grade:



### Changes in CAASPP Z-score – 2016/17 vs 2015/16

Figure 10: Changes in Grade-Mean CAASPP Z-score (See Section 3.1) for TRT and CTRL Datasets between 2015/16 and 2016/17

Table 13 shows the statistics for the differences between TRT and CTRL (Treatment - Control) for these same CAASPP Z-score changes as shown in Figure 10.

	Estimate	P-Value	Int.Low	Int.High
Grade 3	0.28	$0.04^{*}$	0.01	0.54
Grade 4	0.27	0.08	-0.03	0.57
Grade 5	0.22	0.16	-0.09	0.53

Table 13: Statistics for the Differential Changes in CAASPP Z-scores (See Section 3.1) Growth, (TRT - CTRL)

### 4 Effect Size

The following table shows the effect sizes for Standard Met or Exceeded, CAASPP scale score, and accompanying Z-score.

	Scale score Effect Size	Z-score Effect Size	Standard Met or Exceeded Effect Size
Grade 3	0.29	0.49	0.31
Grade 4	0.35	0.55	0.44
Grade 5	0.24	0.34	0.20
All Grades	0.24	0.45	0.29

Table 14: Cohen's d Effect Size

# 5 Findings Summary

California grades 3, 4, and 5 using ST Math for the year 2016/17 averaged 30.4% ST Math Progress. 88/609 grades (14%) averaged covering more than 50% of ST Math content. Statistically significant differences were found in this analysis for both grade-aggregated and individual grade levels. Looking at Table 7, statistically significant differences were found for grade-aggregated Z-score, with an estimate of 0.26 points favorable for the ST Math treatment set, as well as for grade-aggregated Standard Met or Exceeded proficiency levels, with a 5.79 point favorable differential for the ST Math treatment set. Further, in Table 7, grade-aggregated ST Math treatment set outperformed their matched controls at the Standard Exceeded level, with a statistically significant difference of 3.97. Referring to Table 11, a statistically significant difference was found for grade 4 Standard Met or Exceeded proficiency levels, with an estimate of 7.67 in favor of the ST Math treatment set. Looking at Table 13, grade 3 ST math treatment set outperformed their matched controls for CAASPP Z-scores with a statistically significant difference of 0.28.

## 6 Confounders

Despite best efforts in minimizing confounders to the results of this analysis, there still remain a few input variables that could be significant in affecting differences of state test score outcomes between the Treatment and Control sets. One issue is the lack of randomization of grades chosen to receive the ST Math treatment. Instead of randomized selection, Treatment grades are self-selected. Self-selection can be an indication of districts or schools with a focus on math, an appetite for change, and with a spotlight on math training. Furthermore, not all grades using the ST Math program are chosen for analysis. Each grade must pass two specific filters to be considered for the Treatment set: the first being an enrollment filter of at least 85% of students in each grade using the program, and the second being a progress filter of at least 50% of the program completed on average by students in that grade. These filters might indicate relatively high-functioning schools with a team of relatively effective teachers in that grade, thus resulting in better instruction overall. A mitigation of this possible confounder is our selection of treatment groups on the grade level, rather than the teacher level, so there is no cherry picking of teachers: the full range of teachers in each grade is included. Moreover, the specific teachers may often be the same in the baseline year as in the current year, so the Treatment growth is not due to teacher differences. Finally, a possible confounder lies in the

"business as usual" conditions at the matched control grades chosen for each analysis. It's unknown whether these control grades used other programs that could affect the comparison of the two sets of grades. The Monte Carlo Method is used to mitigate the possibility of control picks being favorable or unfavorable (see Section 2.3).

# 7 Reference Tables Grouped By School Year

The following tables show grade-level details, grouped by school year and for treatment (Table 15) and controls (Table 16) separately.

	# Grades	# Schools	# Students	Scale score	Z-score	Percentile	L1	L2	L3	L4	Standard Met or Exceeded	ST Math Per Comp.
Grade 3 (15.16)	30	30	2557	2448.4	0.42	63.57	19.57	21.67	31.77	26.80	58.57	-
Grade 4 (15.16)	24	24	1950	2467.4	0.13	54.71	25.83	32.79	23.75	17.62	41.25	_
Grade 5 (15.16)	23	23	1749	2508.9	0.40	62.61	29.00	27.52	18.91	24.70	43.43	-
All Grades (15.16)	77	46	6256	2472.4	0.32	60.52	24.34	26.88	25.43	23.31	48.65	-
Grade 3 (16.17)	30	30	2429	2459.0	0.80	72.13	17.92	18.29	31.57	32.22	63.79	59.31
Grade 4 (16.17)	24	24	1852	2481.6	0.47	63.25	20.13	29.46	27.66	22.76	50.42	65.07
Grade 5 (16.17)	23	23	1876	2515.7	0.65	67.43	26.18	26.80	19.15	27.87	47.03	60.91
All Grades (16.17)	77	46	6157	2483.0	0.65	67.96	21.08	24.31	26.64	27.97	54.62	61.58

Table 15: TRT Grades Detail Sorted by Year

	# Grades	# Schools	# Students	Scale score	Z-score	Percentile	L1	L2	L3	L4	Standard Met or Exceeded	ST Math Per Comp.
Grade 3 (15.16)	30	30	2538	2444.8	0.36	61.97	20.07	23.90	31.50	24.47	55.97	-
Grade 4 (15.16)	24	24	2038	2468.2	0.14	55.29	23.21	34.96	24.83	16.96	41.75	_
Grade 5 (15.16)	23	23	2085	2507.8	0.38	62.09	29.22	28.91	19.09	22.87	42.09	_
All Grades (15.16)	77	77	6661	2470.9	0.30	59.92	23.78	28.84	25.71	21.65	47.39	_
Grade 3 (16.17)	30	30	2328	2445.2	0.46	62.57	19.58	24.81	30.53	25.08	55.61	_
Grade 4 (16.17)	24	24	1957	2470.4	0.21	55.50	24.68	32.08	25.56	17.68	43.25	-
Grade 5 (16.17)	23	23	2048	2504.1	0.41	61.04	31.25	27.18	17.92	23.65	41.57	-
All Grades (16.17)	77	77	6333	2470.6	0.37	59.91	24.66	27.78	25.22	22.35	47.56	—

Table 16: CTRL Grades Detail Sorted by Year

# 8 Lists of Schools

### 8.1 Treatment Schools

The following table lists the treatment schools and grades (after 85% enrollment and 50% progress filtering) used in the analysis.

PID	IID	District	School Name	GRADE
10016651	ACH7EK	Achieve Charter School Of Paradise Inc.	Achieve Charter School Of Paradise Inc.	5
5341718	BRO746	Beaumont Unified	Brookside Elementary	3, 4
95263	BUE6ZT	Centralia Elementary	Buena Terra Elementary	3, 4, 5
95299	GEO6ZQ	Centralia Elementary	George B. Miller Elementary	3, 4, 5
95304	GHD6ZQ	Centralia Elementary	Glen H. Dysinger Sr. Elementary	3, 4, 5
95316	LOS6ZQ	Centralia Elementary	Los Coyotes Elementary	3, 4, 5
95342	RAY6ZQ	Centralia Elementary	Raymond Temple Elementary	3, 4, 5
95354	SAN6ZQ	Centralia Elementary	San Marino Elementary	3, 4
12109400	HIG73V	High Tech Elementary	High Tech Elementary	3
71554	GRO6ZZ	Long Beach Unified	Cleveland Elementary	3, 4, 5
3248342	INT709	Long Beach Unified	Jenny Oropeza Elementary	5
71841	ABR709	Long Beach Unified	Lincoln Elementary	4
71877	HEN709	Long Beach Unified	Longfellow Elementary	3, 4, 5
76126	BUS6Y4	Los Angeles Unified	Bushnell Way Elementary	4
49862	BEL7AT	Oakland Unified	Bella Vista Elementary	3
50160	BUR7AS	Oakland Unified	Burckhalter Elementary	3, 4, 5
49977	GLE7AS	Oakland Unified	Glenview Elementary	4
50196	CHA7AS	Oakland Unified	Howard Elementary	4
102414	EME74Y	Riverside Unified	Emerson Elementary	3, 4, 5
94324	RAL75B	Saddleback Valley Unified	Ralph A. Gates Elementary	3, 5
94336	SAN75D	Saddleback Valley Unified	San Joaquin Elementary	4.5
94348	SAN75B	Saddleback Valley Unified	Santiago Elementary	3.4
112641	BAY73V	San Diego Unified	Bay Park Elementary	5
114091	BEN73V	San Diego Unified	Benchley/Weinberger Elementary	3
112756	CAD73V	San Diego Unified	Cadman Elementary	3
112823	CLA73V	San Diego Unified	Clay Elementary	3.4
112873	CR073U	San Diego Unified	Crown Point Elementary	4
1824988	DOY73W	San Diego Unified	Dovle Elementary	3
113190	HAR73V	San Diego Unified	Hardy Elementary	3
113217	HEA73W	San Diego Unified	Hearst Elementary	3.5
1824990	JEB73X	San Diego Unified	Jerabek Elementary	3 5
12109424	SAL73W	San Diego Unified	Jonas Salk Elementary	3 4 5
113322	IIIA73W	San Diego Unified	Juarez Elementary	4
113554	MAR73W	San Diego Unified	Marvin Elementary	5
113724	PAC73U	San Diego Unified	Pacific Beach Elementary	3
113815	ROL73V	San Diego Unified	Bolando Park Elementary	3
113841	ROW73U	San Diego Unified	Bowan Elementary	5
113906	SES73U	San Diego Unified	Sessions Elementary	3.4
1594047	BAV77C	San Luis Coastal Unified	Baywood Elementary	5
191959	LIL 77L	San Miguel Joint Union	Lillian Larson Flomontary	5
114431	BAV73D	South Bay Union	Bayside Steam Academy	3
1414797	HOW737	South Bay Union	Howard Pence Elementary	3
11//81	IMP73D	South Bay Union	Imporial Boach Chartor	3
114401	NFS737	South Bay Union	Nestor Language Academy Charter	3 4 5
19100750	SUM6V2	Summit Proparatory Charton	Summit Proparatory Chartor	5, 4, 5
12109109	OP 4670	Whittion City, Flomontory	Orenge Crove Flowenter	4

Table 17: Treatment Schools (TRT Dataset)

# 8.2 Control Schools

The following tables list the control schools and grades (matched control grades to treatment grades) used in the analysis.

PID	District	School Name	GRADE
65543	Abc Unified	Kennedy (John F.) Elementary	3
1395729	Albany City Unified	Marin Elementary	5
65775	Alhambra Unified	Monterey Highlands Elementary	4
52039	Amador County Unified	Jackson Elementary	3
10021204	Apple Valley Unified	Sitting Bull Academy	4
4363189	Apple Valley Unified	Sycamore Rocks Elementary	3
11829293	Auburn Union Elementary	Alta Vista Community Charter	4
62204	Bakersfield City	Munsey Elementary	4
123717	Ballard Elementary	Ballard Elementary	5
88703	Bass Lake Joint Union Elementary	Oakhurst Elementary	4
4363347	Belmont-Redwood Shores Elementary	Cipriani Elementary	4
53447	Brentwood Union Elementary	Brentwood Elementary	5
10012112	Brentwood Union Elementary	Marsh Creek Elementary	3
67046	Burbank Unified	George Washington Elementary	3
110435	Carlsbad Unified	Buena Vista Elementary	3
10023587	Chino Valley Unified	Chaparral Elementary	3
110679	Chula Vista Elementary	Finney (Myrtle S.) Elementary	3
110552	Chula Vista Elementary	Halecrest Elementary	3
3399202	Colton Joint Unified	Jurupa Vista Elementary	5
137677	Columbine Elementary	Columbine Elementary	4
110849	Coronado Unified	Silver Strand Elementary	4
11466683	Creekside Charter	Creekside Charter	3
3009641	Desert Sands Unified	Harry S. Truman Elementary	4
68703	East Whittier City Elementary	La Colima Elementary	5
91762	Eastern Sierra Unified	Antelope Elementary	5
103171	Elk Grove Unified	Samuel Kennedy Elementary	4
111001	Escondido Union	Glen View Elementary	3
111063	Escondido Union	Oak Hill Elementary	5
4287597	Fresno Unified	Edith B. Storey Elementary	5
126563	Gilroy Unified	Rucker Elementary	5
3418884	Harmony Union Elementary	Salmon Creek School - A Charter	3
1169180	Havward Unified	Southgate Elementary	4
121733	Hillsborough City Elementary	West Hillsborough	3
70794	Keppel Union Elementary	Keppel Academy	5
3390579	Lake Elsinore Unified	Luiseno	3
10025080	Lodi Unified	George Lincoln Mosher	3
77596	Los Angeles Unified	Dyer Street Elementary	3
11132234	Los Angeles Unified	Enadia Way Technology Charter	4
76229	Los Angeles Unified	Franklin Avenue Elementary	5
77716	Los Angeles Unified	Haskell Elementary Science Technology Engineering	5
74063	Los Angeles Unified	Sixty-Sixth Street Elementary	4
3210876	Los Angeles Unified	Telfair Avenue Elementary	3
10022648	Lucia Mar Unified	Lange (Dorothea) Elementary	5
11926516	Metro Charter	Metro Charter	3
135746	Modesto City Elementary	Wilson Elementary	4
92285	Monterev Peninsula Unified	Foothill Elementary	5
2223210	Moorpark Unified	Peach Hill Academy	3
1400350	Morgan Hill Unified	Los Paseos Elementary	5
3250723	Murrieta Valley Unified	Rail Ranch Elementary	5
79946	Norwalk-La Mirada Unified	Thomas B. Moffitt Elementary	4
89264	Novato Unified	Hamilton Meadow Park	3
131257	Pacheco Union Elementary	Prairie Elementary	3
130112	Pajaro Valley Unified	Linscott Charter	3
130203	Pajaro Valley Unified	Valencia Elementary	4
4462852	Panama-Buena Vista Union	Bill L. Williams Elementary	4

 Table 18: Matched Control Schools (CTRL Dataset)

PID	District	School Name	GRADE
54702	Pittsburg Unified	Willow Cove Elementary	5
56322	Placerville Union Elementary	Sierra Elementary	4
49161	Pleasanton Unified	Lydiksen Elementary	5
11079230	Poway Unified	Willow Grove Elementary	3
137110	Red Bluff Union Elementary	Jackson Heights Elementary	5
1169817	River Delta Joint Unified	Walnut Grove Elementary	3
4034326	Sacramento City Unified	Matsuyama Elementary	4
4362692	San Bernardino City Unified	Palm Avenue Elementary	3
2180400	San Francisco Unified	Lilienthal (Claire) Elementary	4
116776	San Francisco Unified	Ortega (Jose) Elementary	5
81547	San Gabriel Unified	Mckinley Elementary	4
50720	San Leandro Unified	Roosevelt Elementary	5
112500	San Marcos Unified	Richland Elementary	3
10023599	San Marcos Unified	San Elijo Elementary	3
124864	Santa Maria-Bonita	Rice (William) Elementary	4
4367018	Snowline Joint Unified	Heritage	5
82058	South Pasadena Unified	Marengo Elementary	5
138566	Sundale Union Elementary	Sundale Elementary	4
3321982	Tehachapi Unified	Cummings Valley Elementary	3
82589	Torrance Unified	Seaside Elementary	3
138853	Visalia Unified	Elbow Creek Elementary	4
1877076	Walnut Valley Unified	Maple Hill Elementary	3

Table 19: Matched Control Schools (CTRL Dataset)