

# Education News & Notes

## Mastering Math Can Add Up To Success

(NAPSA)—A strong foundation in math gives students—and parents—something they can count on.

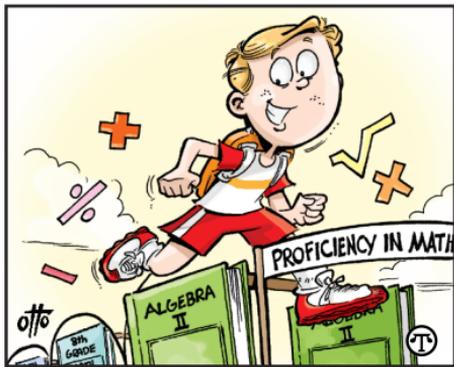
That's the key message of an educator known as "America's Math Teacher"—Rick Fisher. He also believes that this country's math education system is, in his word, "Broken." Only three out of every 10 of our kids are proficient in math at grade 8, and by grade 12 it is only two out of 10. He also points to the fact that over 70 percent of our colleges have found it necessary to offer remedial math classes.

Fisher believes that an early mastery of math skills can lead to long-term success in school and beyond. He points to research that indicates a student will be more than twice as likely to graduate from college if he or she completes Algebra II.

He also holds that these benefits are particularly significant for lower-income parents and students. Fisher contends that low-income students who acquire strong math skills by the 8th grade are 10 times more likely to finish college than kids of the same socioeconomic background who don't master math. Plus, the jobs that require strong math and science skills are outpacing overall job growth by 3 to 1.

In a recent interview, Fisher stated that, in his opinion, algebra readiness is the key. Algebra is the gateway subject to more advanced math, science and technical classes. The benefits to this readiness are evident, not only in academic success but, eventually, as an avenue to well-paying jobs.

However, Fisher admits that the groundwork for this readiness starts with a mastery of what he calls the Critical Foundations of Algebra: whole numbers, fractions and decimals, and geometry and measurement.



**Experts say an early mastery of math skills can lead to long-term success in school and beyond.**

To help students—and parents—Fisher has developed a three-volume book and DVD system called "Mastering Essential Math Skills" for grades 4 and 5, Middle Grades and High School, and Pre-Algebra Concepts. The "America's Math Teacher" system teaches the exact topics recommended for algebra readiness by the National Mathematics Advisory Panel. No extra fluff or side topics to confuse or distract.

The lessons are short, concise and self-contained. Students don't have time to get bored or discouraged. Consistent review is built into lessons so students are able to master and reinforce their math skills.

Each of the DVDs has over six hours of instruction, and Fisher guides students carefully through each and every topic before they go to the book. Students can see their progress and this helps increase their confidence and build self-esteem.

The material is easy to correct and "parent friendly." With little or no involvement, parents can watch their kid's math scores soar. An added bonus, especially in these tough economic times, is that the cost is a lot less than a tutor.

To learn more, visit the Web site at [www.mathessentials.com](http://www.mathessentials.com).