

Are Schools Choosing High-Quality Math Curricula? A New Database Offers Clues



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It's possible to quantify a lot of things about the U.S. education system, but there's one stat that remains notoriously elusive: what materials teachers are using in their classrooms.

There's little national data about which curricula are most popular. And though many states approve or recommend materials, most don't keep public-facing lists of which districts choose.

It's a situation that makes it difficult to understand whether waves of proposed reforms to educational practice have actually led to substantive changes, and how those trends may vary across the country.

Now, a new project aims to shed some light on this landscape.

The Center for Education Market Dynamics, a nonprofit market-intelligence organization, has created a database of math curricula used in 934 districts, representing more than 52 percent of all students in the country. The database demonstrates which publishers hold the most control over the market—but it also tracks the spread of high-quality materials.