

From: soulost@arps.org
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 1:30 PM
To: info@whatworks.ed.gov
Subject: IES Website: Contact Us: Publications, Intervention Reports, Reference ID
Number: 2096119635

info@whatworks.ed.gov, this email was automatically sent through the Contact link on the WWC website.

From: soulost@arps.org

Message: Hello, I have been reading and examining the Report "Achievement Effects of Four Elementary School Math Curricula: Findings from First Graders in 39 Schools" for some time now. I work in a district that has adopted Investigations, and I believe it is a strong program with teaches kids well, so I've been interested in this report with appears to point out weaknesses in Investigations. Here's what I found: everyone is looking at a graph comparing the 4 curricula studied called, "Average HLM-Adjusted Spring Math Score with Confidence Interval, by Curriculum" which is in the Main Findings section. This graph shows Investigations in 3rd place out of 4 places. The graph does not clearly state, though, what it measures, but it does say that table D-3 contains the data which the graph represents. When I looked at table D-3, what I found is that the Main Findings graph reflects gain in achievement scores from Fall to Spring. It does not compare overall achievement. In fact, in Table D-3, Investigations schools had the highest average starting scores in the Fall and ended in the Spring with the second highest scores. Their gain was smallest because their scores started so high. Your analysis of the study and the study's ambiguous description of its findings makes it seem as though Investigations is clearly inferior in this measure of first graders' achievement. But that is not the case, at least from looking at the data in table D-3. If I've misinterpreted things, I hope someone will get back to me and explain where I've gone astray. If not, I really hope your organization

will put out another statement clarifying things. Our district has critics of investigations calling for the scrapping of the curriculum based in part on the results of this study.]

I look forward to hearing back from you,

Sincerely,

Ted Soulos

Title 1 teacher

Crocker Farm School, Amherst, MA

From: WhatWorks
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2010 11:19 AM
To: 'soulost@arps.org'
Subject: What Works Clearinghouse (WWC 1876)
Dear Mr. Soulos,

Thank you for contacting the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC).

We have received your email about the WWC Quick Review "Achievement Effects of Four Elementary School Math Curricula." We apologize for the delay in responding to your email. WWC staff are reviewing your email and will prepare a written response.

What Works Clearinghouse

The What Works Clearinghouse was established by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences to provide educators, policymakers, researchers, and the public with a central and trusted source of scientific evidence of what works in education. For more information, please visit <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/>.

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Ted Soulos
Title 1 teacher
Crocker Farm School, Amherst, MA

From: Ted Soulos [SoulosT@ARPS.ORG]
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2010 12:47 PM
To: WhatWorks
Subject: Re: What Works Clearinghouse (WWC 1876)
Hi WWC,

Thanks for getting back to me. I looked at the graph again and realize I DID misinterpret the graph. Investigations did indeed come in third on the assessment. My mistake. I do still have questions: what exactly did the assessment measure? And in the Main Findings graph, the Y axis is standard deviations, broken down by 10ths. I can't tell how much of a difference the 4 curricula are other than to say they are a few 10ths of a SD apart. Can you folks clarify?

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>>> WhatWorks <WhatWorks@icfi.com> 2/9/2010 12:19 PM >>>

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Title 1 teacher
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From: What Works
Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 2:12 PM
To: 'SoulosT@ARPS.ORG'
Subject: What Works Clearinghouse (2010001)
Attachments: 2010001.pdf

Dear Mr. Soulos,

Attached is a response to the questions you raised in your February 9, 2010 message to the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC).

Thank you,

What Works Clearinghouse

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