

News from the Stamford Public Schools

June 5, 2007

For immediate release

Contact: Sarah Arnold, Public Affairs Officer (203) 977-4095

Stamford Public Schools Prepares For New K-5 Math Curriculum *Implementation to begin in grades K-2 in September*

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joshua P. Starr today announced the selection of a new elementary math curriculum, *Everyday Mathematics*. The Stamford Board of Education accepted the selection for implementation in grades K-2 in September 2007, with grades 3-5 to follow.

The implementation of *Everyday Mathematics* is a key outcome of the school district's College Bound District Program (CBDP) partnership with the GE Foundation. The GE Foundation awarded the district \$15.3 million over five years to increase college readiness and to improve math and science instruction for each and every student.

"I am incredibly excited to announce the selection of a common math curriculum for all of our elementary schools," said Dr. Starr. "For the first time, every elementary school will be expected to follow the same curriculum so each and every student is prepared to excel in math in the 21st century. The GE Foundation's investment in Stamford's educators will enable the Stamford Public Schools to be the best small urban school district in the country."

The curriculum represents one piece of Stamford's comprehensive math and science reform effort. The district will also introduce intervention programs for middle school math; new science curriculum materials for grades 5, 8, and 10; extensive professional development in math and science; and new assessment tools.

Everyday Mathematics is a comprehensive pre-kindergarten through 6th grade mathematics curriculum developed by the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project, and published by Wright Group/McGraw-Hill. The program is used in more than 175,000 classrooms involving 2.8 million students.

Stamford's Curriculum & Instruction staff and K-5 Math Steering Committee consulted nationally-recognized sources, visited numerous sites, and interviewed dozens of users in other districts. *Everyday Mathematics* is a rigorous, standards-based program built on the principle that children begin school with mathematical knowledge and intuition and that teachers and other adults play important roles in providing them with rich and meaningful mathematical experiences.

Implementation plans for *Everyday Mathematics* will include: an introduction to all materials for K-2 teachers on June 11th and June 12th; the creation of a pacing guide for teachers; a full day of district professional development on August 28th for K-2 teachers; parent communications and meetings in the fall; an ongoing K-5 Math Steering Committee to prepare needed resources for teachers; and monthly school-based support provided by *Everyday Mathematics* publishers from October to May.