

Assessing the Effectiveness of Mathematics Curricula

One might assume that, in the era of high-stakes testing, there would be plenty of data available to assess the effectiveness of various mathematics curricula. However, the issue is not that simple. Alan Schoenfeld, writing in *Educational Researcher* (American Educational Research Association, vol. 35, no. 2, pp. 13-21, March, 2006), explains the issue in detail. While his article is a critique of the “What Works Clearinghouse,” the section titled, “Issues in the Evaluation of Mathematics Curricula” (pp. 14-17), provides the historical background of assessment, an outline of the current controversy, and some difficulties with contemporary testing results.

We recommend that you read this section of the article so that the research and reports offered by CPM have some context. You may access the article at:

http://www.aera.net/uploadedFiles/Publications/Journals/Educational_Researcher/3502/03ERv35n2_Schoenfeld.pdf.