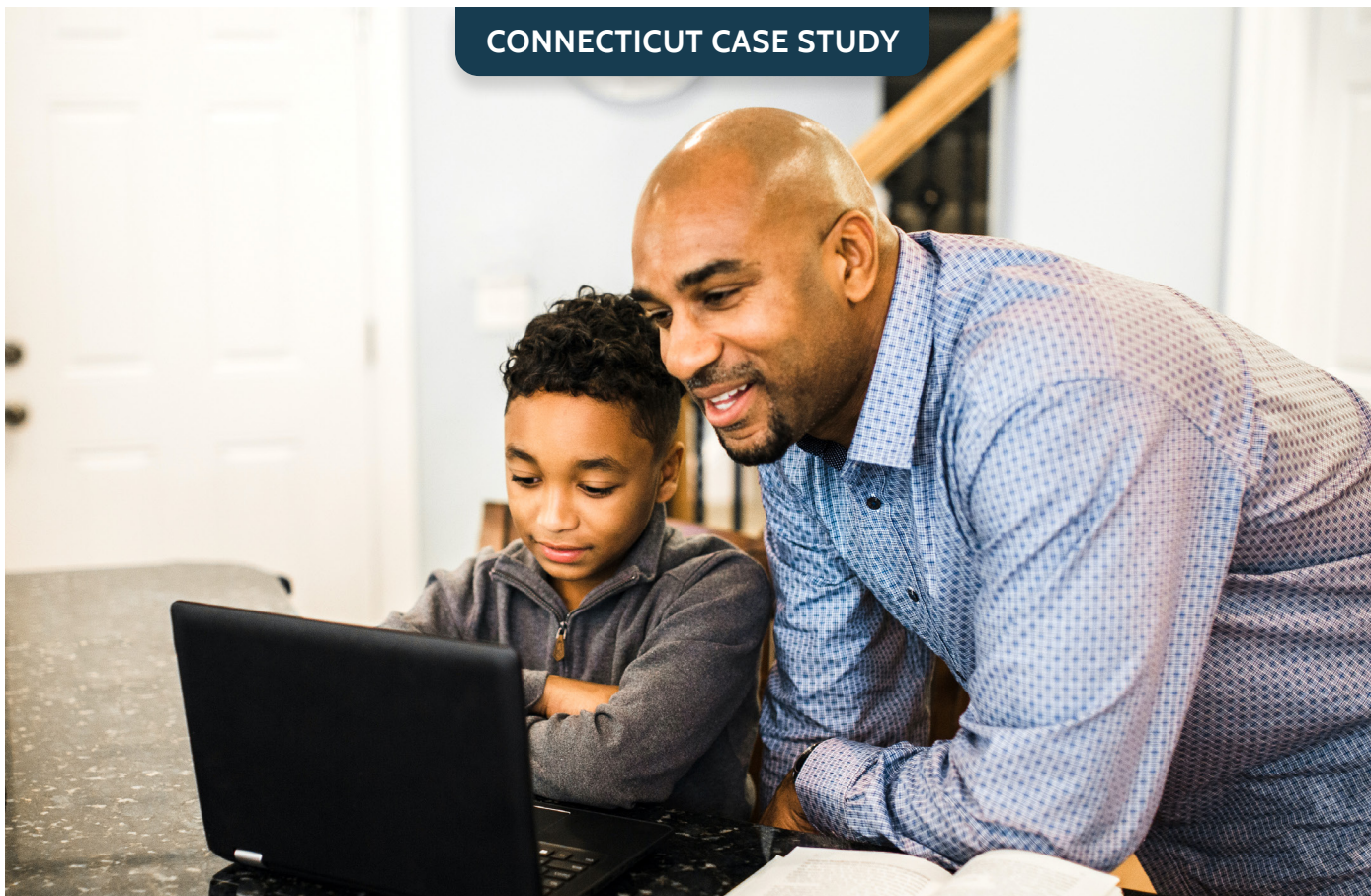


CONNECTICUT CASE STUDY



Connecticut Students Participate in *Quantile*® Summer Math Challenge

More than 23,000 students across Connecticut participated in MetaMetrics' ***Quantile*® Summer Math Challenge**, a free, online math program, in summer 2019. The six-week program for students who have just completed any grade 1-8 is designed to combat regression in math skills over the summer. Some research estimates that students can lose about a third¹ of what was learned in the previous school year over the summer.

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) introduced its first Summer Math Challenge in 2017 to accompany a longstanding tradition of offering the Governor's National Reading Challenge summer program. "I'd been thinking for a long time that we needed something in math for the summer," said Jennifer Michalek, K-12 math education consultant for the CSDE. A summer math program was one of many recommendations made by the CSDE's 2016 Commissioner's Council on Mathematics.



CONNECTICUT STATE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Dr. Miguel A. Cardona
Former Commissioner of Education

portal.ct.gov | Hartford, CT

176 school districts
530,000+ students
1,499 public schools or programs
51,850.5 teachers

¹ Cooper, H., Nye, B., Charlton, K., Lindsay, J., & Greathouse, S. (1996). The effects of summer vacation on achievement test scores: A narrative and meta-analytic review. *Review of Educational Research*, 66(3), 227-268.

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The CSDE chose the Summer Math Challenge primarily because it is aligned with Connecticut's Core Standards. "We're not interested in just some activity. We want something that is meaningful," said Michalek. "Our parents can feel assured that the work their children are doing is on grade level and is in alignment with what the school will expect in the fall"

“ In these difficult, unprecedented times, it may be helpful to view life as a math equation — in order to gain the most, you have to know how to convert negatives into positives. The Summer Math Challenge helps participating students retain what they have learned throughout the school year and continue learning and growing in the summer months. This program enables Connecticut's students to enter next school year prepared for success which, now more than ever, is especially important as we strive to halt the setbacks and address the educational disruption resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Summer Math Challenge gets right to the core of engaging our kids in positive, academically enriching activities to safeguard against learning loss. ”

— Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, former Connecticut commissioner of education

The CSDE kicks off Summer Math Challenge each spring with a participation drive targeting math coordinators, principals and district superintendents. The CSDE encourages participation through marketing campaigns on the CSDE's website and state recognition for schools with the highest participation. The program has expanded each year including increasing the number of categories for state recognition and using the Official SAT® Practice from the College Board and Khan Academy to include high schools in the Summer Math Challenge.

Tracey Romberg, math coordinator at North Haven Middle School, strongly believes in getting the word out. Her school/district won recognition for high student participation for three consecutive summers. Romberg sees many advantages to the Summer Math Challenge:

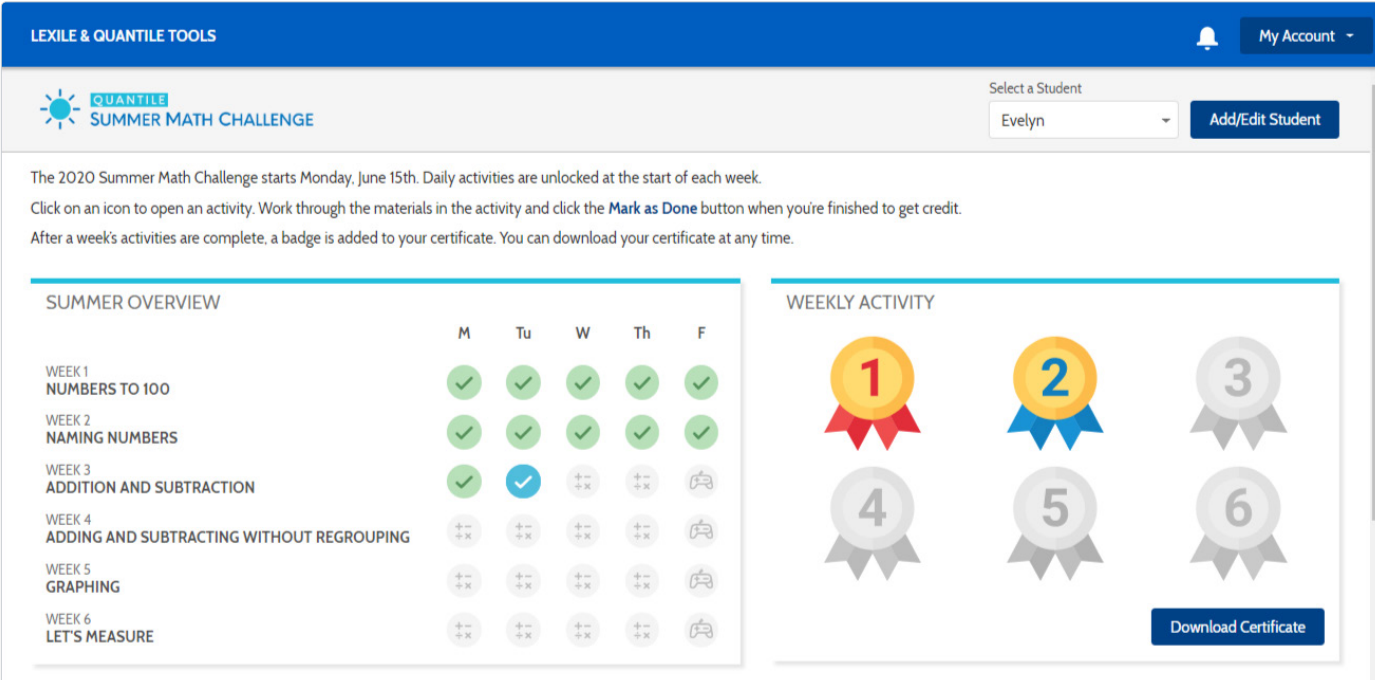
- ➔ At registration, parents can indicate if their child finds math at grade level easy, just right or difficult and the program adjusts accordingly.
- ➔ Students receive immediate, automatic feedback assessing if their answers are correct. (Before 2017, many districts sent home math packets with students to work on over the summer. But in many cases, students did not get feedback on their work until returning to school the next fall.)
- ➔ The Challenge is easy for students to navigate and use. "I did this program with my daughter over the summer and it was easy for her to do on her own once we signed in. We read the directions and then she played the game or completed the activity on her own — which was nice," Romberg said.
- ➔ There are a variety of topics and flexibility for how students can practice such as playing games, looking at videos, or completing a worksheet. (Romberg found it convenient to have printout activities at times.)
- ➔ Students can get a sense of accomplishment from earning badges and downloading a certificate of completion.

The Summer Math Challenge focuses on one math concept per week delivered by daily emails. For example, weekly themes for third grade are: multiplication, advanced multiplication, fractions, compare and order fractions, finding area, and measuring capacity, weight and height.

Activities for “Real-World Wednesday” are grounded in everyday life to be engaging for both parents and children. Both Michalek and Romberg believe parent attitudes can be key to students’ success in the math summer program as well as during the school year. “You don’t have to be an expert in math to talk to your kids about their math work,” Michalek said. “Just become a part of it and ask them what they’re learning.”

Quantile Summer Math Challenge

The Summer Math Challenge is offered in the *Lexile® & Quantile®* Hub at hub.lexile.com/smc, an online platform with free reading and math tools. Registration begins each April and the program opens the third Monday in June each year. Students can participate throughout June and July. Parents register based on their child’s just-finished grade and can enter their child’s Quantile measure, if available. A student’s Quantile measure is often reported on state end-of-grade tests or other math tests and indicates the progress made in learning math content and what new math content they may be ready to learn next. Thousands of students across all 50 states have participated in the Summer Math Challenge since it first began in 2013.



The screenshot shows the 'LEXILE & QUANTILE TOOLS' header with a 'My Account' dropdown. Below is the 'QUANTILE SUMMER MATH CHALLENGE' section. It includes a 'Select a Student' dropdown menu with 'Evelyn' selected and an 'Add/Edit Student' button. The main content area has two panels: 'SUMMER OVERVIEW' and 'WEEKLY ACTIVITY'.

SUMMER OVERVIEW

	M	Tu	W	Th	F
WEEK 1 NUMBERS TO 100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
WEEK 2 NAMING NUMBERS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
WEEK 3 ADDITION AND SUBTRACTION	✓	✓	+	+	+
WEEK 4 ADDING AND SUBTRACTING WITHOUT REGROUPING	+	+	+	+	+
WEEK 5 GRAPHING	+	+	+	+	+
WEEK 6 LET'S MEASURE	+	+	+	+	+

WEEKLY ACTIVITY

Shows six numbered medals (1-6) with a 'Download Certificate' button.

Access

Summer Math Challenge is available at hub.lexile.com/smc and can be completed in June and July.*

* For exact dates, please go to hub.lexile.com/smc.

Learn More

To learn more about the Challenge, visit quantiles.com/summer-math-challenge.

Additional Resources

For ways students can find help with math throughout the year, consider *Quantile® Math@Home* at hub.lexile.com/math-at-home.