



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Essentials of Math Instruction

Grades 4–8

ND COUNTS

COMING SUMMER 2026

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

This three-day training sequence engages math teachers (grades 4-8) in studying the progression of learning across middle grades and the key competencies of problem solving, connections, and reasoning and proof. Each session engages participants in experiential-based learning with participants completing activities from high-quality instructional materials through the viewpoint of students and reflecting from an instructional and pedagogical lens.

PARTICIPANT OUTCOMES



Content Knowledge

Richer content knowledge on the progression of learning in foundational focus topics across middle grades.



Research-Based Practices

Experience with research-based best practices in mathematics, including explicit instruction and data-driven decision making.



Access Strategies

Strategies to support students in accessing grade-level content and addressing unfinished learning through differentiation.

ND COUNTS LEGISLATION ALIGNMENT

Legislative Intent: The intention of the North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) section 15.1-21-2.2 regarding mathematics curriculum and professional development is to support the improvement of mathematics instruction for students in North Dakota.

All teachers & principals serving students in grades 4-8 mathematics: Must participate in continued professional development

CONTENT & STRUCTURE

Each day includes six hours of content, one hour for lunch, and two 15-minute breaks.

DAY 1

Problem Solving through Explicit Math Instruction: Leveraging High Quality Instructional Materials
Foundational Skills: Numbers & Operations

DAY 2

Data-Driven Decision Making: Leveraging Formative Assessment
Foundational Skills: Algebraic Reasoning and Data, Probability, and Statistics

DAY 3

Building Connections through Differentiated Instruction: Creating Access to Grade Level Learning
Foundational Skills: Geometry & Measurement

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LOGISTICS

Partners & Facilitators: NDDPI, NDREAs, District Personnel, and SchoolKit are collaborating to develop and design the Professional Development

Who Should Attend: Teachers of mathematics grades 4-8, building principals

Scheduling: Coming Summer – Fall 2026! More info will be shared via *NDDPI Messenger* when registration is available

Contact Person: Kate Waechter | kwachter@nd.gov | (701) 328-2132