

What Do We Know about the Use of Mathematics Specialists and Coaches in Schools?

Many schools and districts are using mathematics specialists and coaches to improve instruction and student achievement; yet, there is a lack of abundant research on their effectiveness. Preliminary results from the few existing studies suggest:

- There is too little research on mathematics specialists to indicate their effectiveness
- Preliminary research on mathematics coaches have indicated the potential for improving instructional practice
- The design of the mathematics coaching program are an important factor
- Researching the impact of specialist and coaches is difficult because these professionals are often part of a larger professional development program. Isolating the impact of just this component is difficult.

Overall, more research is definitely needed before confident statements can be made about the effectiveness of mathematics coaches and specialists.

Based on Mathematics Specialists and Mathematics Coaches: What Does the Research Say?

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