



**Cradle to Career**  
Anchored at United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona

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# Mathematics Change Network

Proficiency in 8th grade math has long been a critical milestone, but the importance of understanding and applying these skills extends far beyond middle school and they are crucial indicators for future success in career development.

## Current Work and Impact

For the 2022-2023 academic year, Cradle to Career supported 6th grade educators from five schools within the Marana Unified School District in a project focused on building teachers' knowledge base to support 6th grade students in math. **This impacted 8 educators and 390 students in the district.**

*"It is important for teachers to understand the alignment and coherence of standards across grade bands in order to build upon prior knowledge and best support the needs of students mathematically. Working with C2C has allowed us to test something new and use data to assess impact that we're excited to continue."*

*Jen Hendrickson  
K-8 Math Specialist  
Marana Unified School District*



# What's Next for the Middle School Math Change Network

The Middle School Math Change Network meets quarterly, with a goal of working together to improve student transition into middle school math through increased alignment with elementary and middle school math educators. The Change Network provides an opportunity for cross-district collaboration, creating opportunities for shared learning, data analysis, and connection for job-alike peers outside of the regular meetings.

In the 2022-23 school year, the Change Network established these goals to guide the work:

- **Change Network Expansion:** bringing in more voices to the change network to broaden the perspectives represented, including parents, teachers, tutors, principals, and more.
- **Identify Opportunities:** Analyze current Pima County math data and other measures for success to identify gaps and opportunities for further work in the middle school math space.
- **Promoting Equity:** Identify factors and/or practices that promote equity in middle school math to ensure impact is distributed equitably across our community.
- **Recruitment and Retention:** Identify how we are retaining and recruiting a diverse middle school math workforce in Pima County.



## 6th Grade Math Cohort at Marana Unified School District

As a partner of the Change Network, Jen Hendrickson, the K-8 Math Specialist for Marana Unified School District (MUSD), developed and implemented a new professional development opportunity for 6th math teachers. The pilot cohort included teachers from five schools within the district. This innovative professional development strategy was designed to deepen teachers' understanding of math standards and build confidence in using different instructional practices to successfully transition students from fifth to sixth grade math.

Some of the promising practices identified by this cohort to support middle school math achievement included:

- Targeted support for teachers during classroom visits and ongoing and targeted professional development from the district math specialist.
- Having monthly learning sessions focused on the current or upcoming math lessons to be taught so teachers receive just-in-time support for their instruction in the classroom.
- Supporting shifts in teachers' focus towards gaining a deeper understanding of grade level standards as well as the standards and math concepts taught before and after their grade level.

This cohort impacted 8 educators and 390 students this year.

## Learn More

To learn more about the Mathematics Change Network, contact Amber Schlak at [aschlak@unitedwaytucson.org](mailto:aschlak@unitedwaytucson.org).