Reno, Nevada

This case study focused on a second grade classroom in Reno, Nevada that used the Bridges in Mathematics, Grade 2 curriculum during the 2001–2002 school year. There were 21 students in the classroom, 7 (33%) were ESL students. The teacher had over 10 years teaching experience and had been using the Bridges in Mathematics curriculum for three years. The class used the Bridges in Mathematics, Grade 2 curriculum for the entire school year. None of the students used the Bridges in Mathematics curriculum in kindergarten or first grade.

The classroom is part of a public K–6 elementary school that is in the Washoe County School District, the second largest school district in Nevada. At the time of this study, the school had an enrollment of about 481 students. Approximately 30% of the students at the school were eligible to participate in the free and reduced price lunch program. The district had 61 elementary schools, 11 middle schools, 11 high schools, and an enrollment of about 57,592 students. The ethnic makeup of the district was about 64% white and 36% minority (mostly Hispanic). Most of the second grade teachers in the district used a more traditional mathematics curriculum during 2001–2002.

Assessment

The district assessed second grade mathematics achievement with a 40 question, criterion-referenced test that was constructed in house. The test assessed mathematics achievement based on 7 district/state mathematics content standards. In order to meet the district's mathematics performance standard, students needed to answer 30 (75%) or more of the 40 test items correctly. The district tested 4,481 second grade students in the spring of 2002, including the 21 Bridges in Mathematics students. This provided an opportunity to compare the mathematics achievement scores of the Bridges in Mathematics students with the scores of the other second grade students in the district.

Outcome

The Bridges in Mathematics students outperformed the other second grade students in the district on the mathematics achievement test. The Bridges students averaged 37.4 correct responses while the district students averaged 35.2 correct responses. All 21 (100%) of the Bridges in Mathematics students met the district mathematics performance standard (30 or more correct answers) compared to 89.4% of the district students (see Figure 2-1). In addition, 19 (90.5%) of the 21 Bridges in Mathematics students mastered all 7 of the mathematics content standards while only 62.2% of the district students mastered all 7 of the mathematics content standards (see Figure 2-2). One of the two remaining Bridges students mastered 5 of the 7 mathematics content standards while the other student mastered 6 of the 7 mathematics content standards. Both were ESL students.

Figure 2-1
Percentage of 2nd Grade Students Who Met the District Mathematics Performance Standard
2002 District Mathematics Test

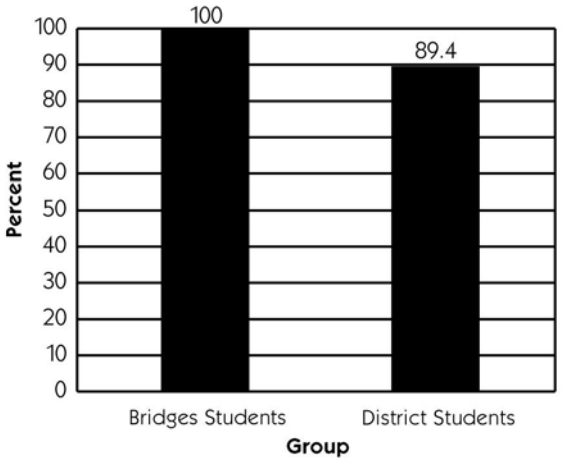

Figure 2-2
Percentage of 2nd Grade Students Who Mastered All 7 of the Mathematics Content Standards
2002 District Mathematics Test