

ABSTRACT

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Title: Where We Stand - An Evaluation of Mathematics Education in the United States via Comparison to Other Countries Around the World

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Year: 2022

In the United States, schools prioritize four subjects – English, mathematics, science, and history/social studies. While all of these subjects are important, it can be argued that mathematics is the most important of the four. Regardless of what students decide to do once they leave school, mathematics is somehow going to be involved in their lives. At various points in their lives, everyone must pay bills, budget expenses, pay taxes, and take basic measurements. Where do we learn the basic skills necessary to do the above-mentioned tasks? Math class! This thesis explored the historical average performance of United States students in mathematics and compared it to the performance of students in Hong Kong, New Zealand, Mexico, and Brazil. This thesis aimed to summarize areas of strengths in weaknesses in how we structure our schools and teach our students math here in the United States compared to these other countries. While there are endless conclusions to be made, this thesis highlights the fact that the United States does have important steps to take if we wish to improve our mathematics performance. Further research in these areas is recommended in the future to continue to develop possible plans of actions to strength our students' mathematical performance.