

# ParentInfo

News for a child's most important educator

August 31, 2015



**Parents' math anxiety can undermine children's math achievement**

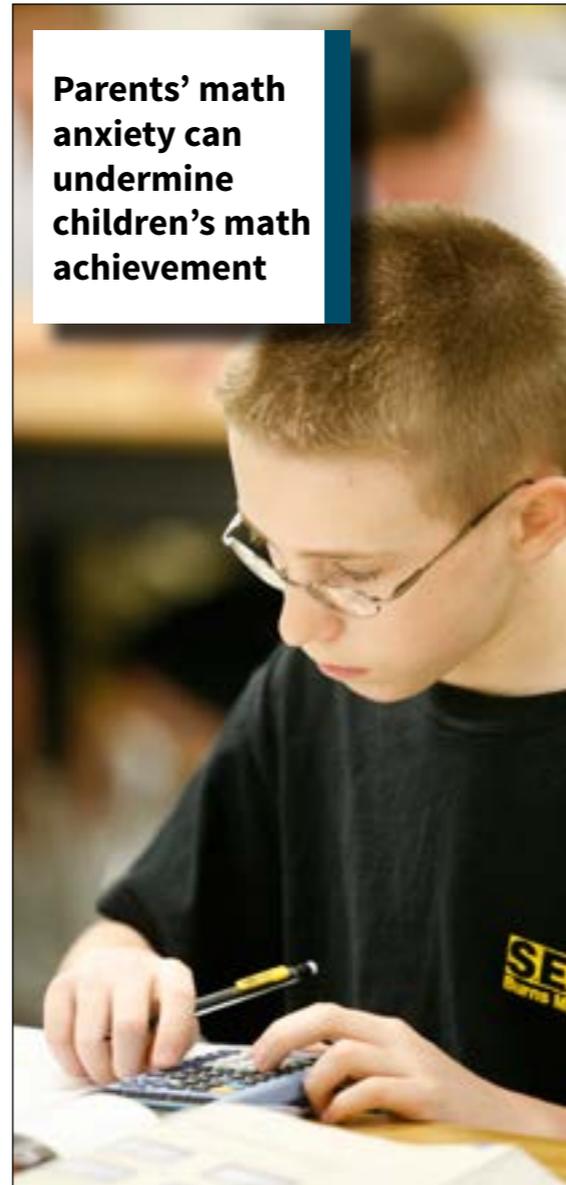
**Service day helps create, improve green schools**



**Publications help parents learn more about Kentucky education, how to talk about it**

## Links:

- [More than 90 percent of Kentucky educators are effective; State Board of Education elects to not include ratings in accountability](#)
- [Kentucky college-going tool unveiled; data released](#)
- [137 schools participate in Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program](#)

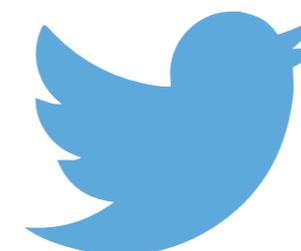


**Department of Education seeks feedback on proposed social studies standards**



## Additional content:

- [Students can participate in a public service poster contest](#)
- [Students can earn KEEs money by doing well on exams](#)



## Twitter chat

Parents: Want to chat with educators? A parent/teacher Twitter chat takes place at 9 p.m. every Wednesday. To participate or just follow the conversation, use the hashtag #PTchat.



All photos by Amy Wallot unless otherwise noted

# Parents' math anxiety can undermine children's math achievement

If your child says they don't like math, you or spouse may be partly to blame, according to research from the University of Chicago.

A team of researchers led by UChicago psychologists Sian Beilock and Susan Levine found that children of math-anxious parents learned less math over the school year and were more likely to be math-anxious themselves—but only when these parents provided frequent help on the child's math homework.

The [new study](#), "Intergenerational Effects of Parents' Math Anxiety on Children's Math Achievement and Anxiety," appears in *Psychological Science*. [Previous research](#) from UChicago researchers has established that when teachers are anxious about math, their students learn less math during the school year. The new study is the first to establish a link between parents' and children's math anxiety. These findings suggest that adults' attitudes toward math can play an important role in children's math achievement.

"We often don't think about how important parents' own attitudes are in determining their children's academic achievement. But our work suggests that if a parent is walking around saying 'Oh, I don't like math' or 'This stuff makes me nervous,' kids pick up on this messaging and it affects their success," explained Beilock, professor in psychology.

"Math-anxious parents may be less effective in explaining math concepts to children, and may not respond well when children make a mistake or solve a problem in a novel way," added Levine, also a psychology professor.

Four hundred and thirty-eight 1st- and 2nd-grade students and their primary caregivers participated in the

study. Children were assessed in math achievement and math anxiety at both the beginning and end of the school year. As a control, the team also assessed reading achievement, which they found was not related to parents' math anxiety.

The researchers believe the link between parents' math anxiety and children's math performance stems more from math attitudes than genetics.

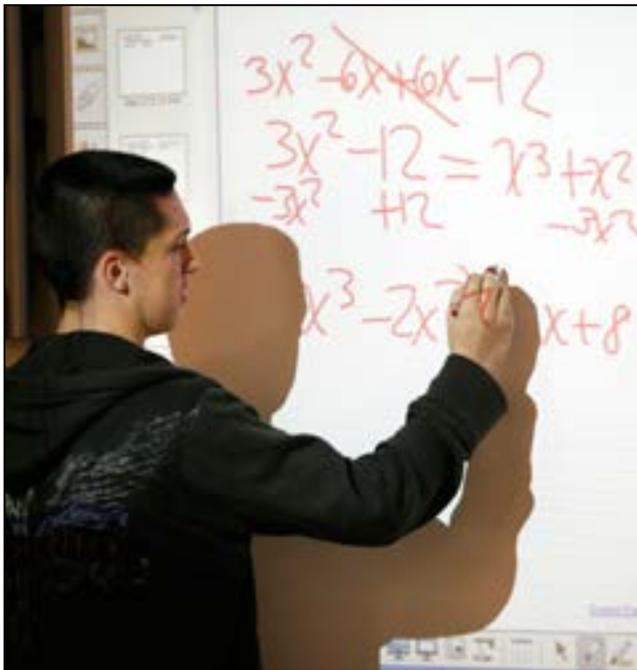
"Although it is possible that there is a genetic component to math anxiety," the researchers wrote, "the fact that parents' math anxiety negatively affected children only when they frequently helped them with math homework points to the need for interventions focused on both decreasing parents' math anxiety and scaffolding their skills in homework help."

Maloney said the study suggests that parent preparation is essential to effective math homework help.

"We can't just tell parents—especially those who are anxious about math—'Get involved,'" Maloney explained. "We need to develop better tools to teach parents how to most effectively help their children with math."

These tools might include math books, computer and traditional board games, or Internet apps that "allow parents to interact with their children around math in positive ways," the researchers wrote.

See the full University of Chicago News Office story [here](#).



# Publications help parents learn more about Kentucky education, how to talk about it



Many parents have at some point listened to their child's teacher or principal and thought, "Are they speaking another language?"

The answer, quite possibly, is yes: Educationese.

Educators tend to speak using an alphabet soup of acronyms that

parents might not understand. But thankfully the Pritchard Committee for Academic Excellence has recently released the [Glossary of Kentucky Education Terms](#) which is available for free [download](#).

So when your child's teacher says that he or she is a NBCT who has recently attended a PD on NGSS and is working with their PLC in hopes of doing well on PGES, you'll know exactly what they mean.

The beginning of the school year is also a good time for parents to learn more about public schools in Kentucky and how they work

to prepare every student for college, career and life. The Pritchard Committee has also published [EdGuides](#) designed to address a single education topic in two pages or less.

The topics range from early childhood education to technical centers and from academic standards to school funding, with separate sections on supports available for students with disabilities, students who face poverty and other non-academic barriers to learning and other education topics.

Both the EdGuides and the glossary are available [here](#).

## Department of Education seeks feedback on proposed social studies standards

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is seeking public feedback on proposed Social Studies Standards for the Next Generation. These future-oriented standards address the knowledge, skills and competencies all of Kentucky's K-12 students should have to be prepared for college, career and civic engagement and to ensure success in the world today.

The proposed social studies standards were revised following input and feedback received from more than 2,000 people involved in focus groups and an online survey conducted during the fall of 2014. About 30 percent of the proposed standards were modified to better capture the vision and outcomes for each grade level.

The latest version of the standards includes the proposed progressions of learning around 15 anchor standards – those 'exit' standards that assure college, career and civic readiness. Each progression includes standards for grades K-12.

Standards should not be confused with curriculum. Standards refer to what students should know and be able to do and should be considered a minimum benchmark for students. Curriculum decisions are made by each School-Based Decision Making (SBDM) Council in Kentucky's schools. Curriculum includes instructional strategies, resources utilized, classroom, school and district assessments; design and pacing of units and courses; and projects, performances or other requirements for successfully demonstrating learning.

The proposed standards meet the criteria of Senate Bill 1 (2009), which mandated new standards in all academic areas. Kentucky educators have been involved throughout the development and revision of the proposed standards.

Parents can provide feedback on any or all of the proposed social studies standards by using this link: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/kyss2015](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/kyss2015).

Those who feel that a standard should be revised also are asked to share their rationale for why the standard needs to be revised. Feedback will be considered before bringing forward a final set of proposed standards to the Kentucky Board of Education for action during the 2015-16 school year.

The deadline for submitting feedback is Sept. 30.



