

NMP State-Level Mobilization



The New Mathways Project

An initiative of the Charles A. Dana Center at
The University of Texas at Austin

An Overview of the Dana Center's New Mathways Project

The Dana Center launched the New Mathways Project in 2012 in collaboration with the Texas Association of Community Colleges.¹ The NMP supports the creation of mathematics pathways that 1) enable all students to enter directly into courses with rigorous mathematics content aligned to their programs of study, and 2) enable most students to earn college credit in a year or less.

The initiative has garnered national attention both for how it defines a model for mathematics pathways and for the strategies the Dana Center employs to support implementation at scale.

The success of the NMP in Texas has inspired leaders to pursue similar work in other states and to promote the NMP model nationally. This work has the potential to help hundreds of thousands of students successfully learn meaningful mathematics content and progress towards completion of a certificate or degree. The Dana Center is expanding services and resources to support these efforts and mobilize stakeholders for collective action.

The NMP is unique in that it works at *multiple levels of the system*—classroom, institutional, state, and national.

Multiple levels of work using a variety of strategies to achieve one goal



State-Level Mobilization

We engage states in the NMP by first assessing and building on the strengths of current work in their systems. We customize services based on state needs, capacity, policies, and institutional structures.

¹ See <http://www.utdanacenter.org/mathways> for more information about the NMP in Texas.

State-level engagement strategies include mobilizing faculty and administrative leaders and their governing authorities through convenings, professional learning opportunities, and tools to support effective institutional implementation and statewide strategic planning. The deepest NMP systemic work is driven by state-level *math task forces*.

State math task forces support NMP implementation by mobilizing faculty leaders to create a shared vision for math pathways that improve student

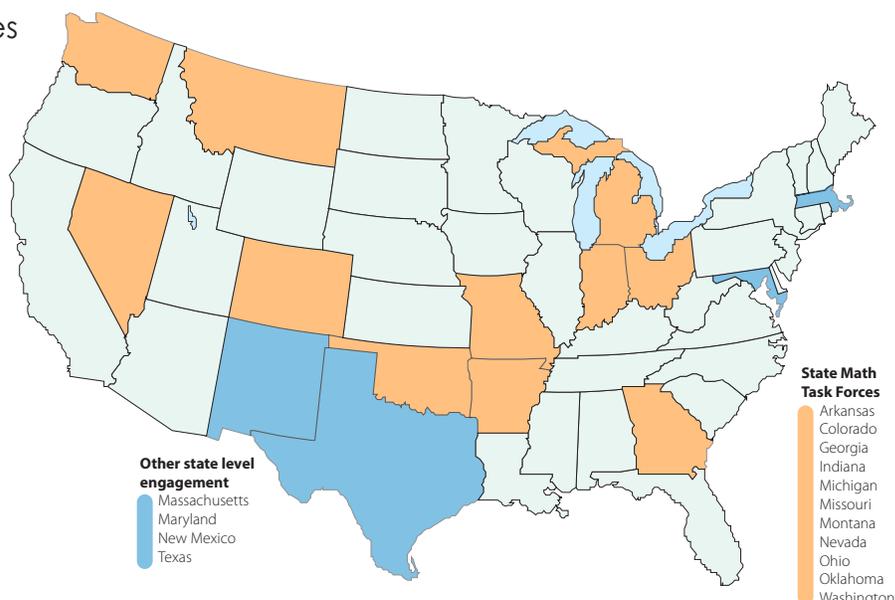
success in undergraduate mathematics. The Dana Center has designed a process and toolkit to support this work. Key activities include...

- Build consensus among mathematics faculty at 2-year and 4-year institutions of higher education around the vision for math pathways in the state.
- Identify policy barriers.
- Create a state action plan to support colleges in implementing math pathways grounded in the NMP principles.

The Dana Center's initial (2013) task force work in Georgia and Ohio resulted in state-level reports² that set out bold recommendations for promoting pathways. This led to a Dana Center collaboration with Complete College America to launch task forces in five additional states in Fall 2014: Colorado, Indiana, Missouri, Montana, and Nevada. The Dana Center and Complete College America also committed to support Ohio with implementation and to a task force project in the Houston, Texas, region. In 2015, the Dana Center began in-depth work with five states: Arkansas, Michigan, Missouri, Oklahoma and Washington. The Dana Center plans to continue expanding these efforts in other states.

Launching a statewide math task force is a structured process that takes place over nine to twelve months. The task force membership includes faculty leaders from 2- and 4-year institutions (including the state's flagship universities), representatives from state policy agencies, and other thought leaders and representatives of stakeholder groups. The task force reviews data, defines the problem, explores possible solutions, and develops and vets recommendations. This work is followed by a process to create a state action plan that leads to institutional implementation.

For more information about the New Mathways Project and the state-level work, visit our website.³ Contact us at mathways@austin.utexas.edu to receive monthly updates on NMP resources and events.



² Georgia Math Task Force report: http://www.usg.edu/educational_access/documents/transforming_remediation/TaskForceMath.pdf
Ohio Math Task Force report: <https://www.ohiohighered.org/mathematics-initiative-documents>

³ Dana Center-New Mathways Project website: <http://www.utdanacenter.org/mathways>