

THE 360 MONTHLY CONNECTION

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WORD ON THE STREETS: PARENTS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES WITH SCHOOLS

One of our three core beliefs is that education should be **anchored in community**. In the spirit of community, we are kicking off a series of talks with families and community members about how they are experiencing schools and what they find important in their child's education. We sat down with two parents and here are the common trends:

- Both parents **opted out of the traditional public school setting** and selected either private or charter schools for their child's education. They cited academic rigor and/or behavior as motivating factors.
- Both parents appreciate **early and regular communication from schools** so that they can better support their child at home.
- Both parents are **open to AI incorporated in schools and classrooms** in a structured, supervised, purposeful manner.

[Click here to listen to our first interview!](#)

STRONG STARTS WITH STRONG MENTORS

We know that effective mentors are critical to the success and retention of new teachers. That's why we're excited to launch our new **Mentoring Foundations Training Series**—an asynchronous, flexible professional learning program designed specifically for mentors in your district.

This series equips mentors with the tools and strategies they need to support new teachers, including:

- Clarifying the **mentor role** and how to differentiate support.
- Building **trusting relationships** through active listening and purposeful questioning.
- Developing a range of **mentoring stances** and engaging in powerful, growth-oriented conversations.

By investing in mentors, districts strengthen their teacher pipelines, improve classroom practice, and help new educators thrive.

👉 Interested in bringing Mentoring Foundations to your district? **Reach out today to learn more about implementation options.**

WHAT WE'RE READING

This week we're digging into a new report featured in The 74: [Students' Math Decline Dovetails With Math Wars, Teacher Pipeline Issues](#). The findings are sobering: U.S. math performance has been sliding for over a decade, nearly 40% of 8th graders now struggle with basic math, and the number of math-prepared teacher graduates has dropped by more than a third. The report points to factors like teacher prep gaps, grade inflation, and rigid tracking systems that disproportionately affect historically underserved students.

💡 What this means for districts and schools:

- **Invest in mentor support:** Pair new teachers with trained mentors to build instructional confidence, especially in math.
- **Strengthen math-specific PD:** Focus on evidence-based strategies like active questioning, feedback cycles, and conceptual understanding alongside procedural fluency.
- **Audit course placement systems:** Revisit tracking policies to ensure multiple entry points and equitable access to advanced math pathways.
- **Align grading with mastery:** Explore standards-based grading or common assessments to close the gap between GPA and demonstrated math skills.

👉 **Next Step:** Consider a quick internal check: *Do our teachers feel prepared to teach math at the level their students need?* If not, let's prioritize mentorship and math-specific professional learning in the year ahead.



TOOLS & RESOURCES

📚 Resources to Explore:

- [NCTM's Catalyzing Change Series](#) – practical guidance on equity and instructional shifts.
- [EdReports Math Curriculum Reviews](#) – evidence-based reviews to help districts choose strong instructional materials.
- [DREME Teacher Educator Resources](#) – Free, research-based professional learning tools from Stanford designed to strengthen early math instruction.

Education360 Services At-a-Glance

- Asynchronous Mentor and Coach Training Series
- Math Curriculum and Instruction Support
- Math Opportunity & Equity Audits
- Professional Development for all levels of educators
- Side-by-side coaching
- School-year Launch Support
- Leader Coaching and Learning Walks
- Speaker and Panel Moderator Engagement

INTERESTED IN OUR SERVICES?

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