

An Agenda for Action

Recommendations for School Mathematics of the 1980s

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics recommends that—

1. problem solving be the focus of school mathematics in the 1980s;
2. basic skills in mathematics be defined to encompass more than computational facility;
3. mathematics programs take full advantage of the power of calculators and computers at all grade levels;
4. stringent standards of both effectiveness and efficiency be applied to the teaching of mathematics;
5. the success of mathematics programs and student learning be evaluated by a wider range of measures than conventional testing;
6. more mathematics study be required for all students and a flexible curriculum with a greater range of options be designed to accommodate the diverse needs of the student population;
7. mathematics teachers demand of themselves and their colleagues a high level of professionalism;
8. public support for mathematics instruction be raised to a level commensurate with the importance of mathematical understanding to individuals and society.

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1906 Association Drive, Reston, Virginia 22091**

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Printed in the United States of America

ISBN 0-87353-166-3

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delta-k is published by The Alberta Teachers' Association for the Mathematics Council. Editor: Ed Carriger, R.R. No. 1, Site 2, Box 4, Bluffton TOC OMO. Editorial and Production Services: Communications Department, ATA. Opinions of writers are not necessarily those of either the Mathematics Council or The Alberta Teachers' Association. Please address correspondence regarding this publication to the editor. *delta-k* is indexed in the Canadian Education Index.

Mathematics Council Executive 1979-80

123456789 123456789 123456789 123456789 123456789 123456789 123456789 123456789 123456789 123456789

President

Lyle Pagnucco Res 271-0259
14135 Parkside Drive SE Bus 284-6164
Calgary T2J 3X3

Past President

Robert Holt Res 462-1847
4255 - 74 Street Bus 455-2008
Edmonton T6K 0W1

Vice-President

Richard J. Kopan Res 271-5240
23 Lake Crimson Close SE Bus 286-5156
Calgary T2J 3K8

Secretary

Dr. Arthur Jorgensen Res 723-5370
Box 2069 Bus 723-3815
Edson TOE OPO or 723-4888

Treasurer

Donald H. Hinde Res 782-6849
Box 741 Bus 782-3812
Lacombe TOC 1S0

delta-k Editor and Publicity Chairman

Ed Carriger Res 843-6138
R.R.#1, Site 2, Box 4 Bus 843-6528
Bluffton TOC OMO

Faculty of Education Rep. and Monograph Editor

John Percevault Res 328-1259
Faculty of Education Bus 329-2111
University of Lethbridge ext. 257
Lethbridge T1K 3M4

Dept. of Education Rep.

Bruce Stonell Res 346-7814
Regional Office of Bus 343-5262
Education
4th Floor, 4814 Ross St.
Red Deer T4N 1X4

Mathematics Representative

Dr. James G. Timourian Res 451-1825
Dept. of Mathematics Bus 432-3395
University of Alberta
Edmonton T6G 2G1

ATA Representative

C.E. Connors Bus 453-2411
Barnett House ext. 283
11010 - 142 Street
Edmonton T5N 2R1

DIRECTORS

Bill R. Gooliaff Res 938-7222
R.R.#2 Bus 246-0771
Okotoks TOL 1T0

Gary Hill Res 327-5601
310 Laval Blvd. Bus 328-5153
Lethbridge T1K 3W5

Klaus Puhlmann Res 723-2548
Box 1570 Bus 723-4471
Edson TOE OPO

Judy Steiert Res 282-6593
#203, 1608 - 20 Ave. NW Bus 276-7844
Calgary T2M 1G8

Mrs. Hilary Ward Res 346-2739
4529 - 48 Street Bus 346-4397
Red Deer T4N 1S2

Dr. Joan E. Worth Res 482-4532
#1001, 9809 - 110 Street Bus 432-4153
Edmonton T5K 2J9

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