

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a beta pilot?

Before a curriculum is released, it is offered to a select group of schools and districts to use and experience in advance of being released. The beta material is not final and may be adjusted based on feedback. Educators that choose to participate in beta programs have a unique opportunity to contribute to the final iteration of the curriculum. Certain requirements are needed in order to participate in beta programs. You can view the IM K-5 Math beta requirements [here](#).

2. Who authored the IM K-5 Math beta curriculum?

IM K-5 Math beta is authored by a team of diverse and talented writers from Illustrative Mathematics, led by mathematician and standards author, Dr. William McCallum. Unique to IM, the writing team and advisory board bring their recent and relevant classroom experience with their extensive knowledge in grade level standards to create a problem-based curriculum to meet the needs of today's learners. The writing team is also receiving ongoing feedback from a community of K-5 math teachers and coaches alpha piloting the curriculum this year with over 1,000 students. [Click here](#) to meet the IM K-5 Math writing team and advisory board.

3. Is IM K-5 Math beta a core program or a supplemental program?

IM K-5 Math beta is designed as a full-course problem-based, core curriculum program to support an aligned, coherent progression within and across grade levels.

4. What extra supports are available with IM K-5 Math beta?

All lessons include built-in support for English learners and students with disabilities. This includes Math Language Routines that are designed to support emerging bilingual or multilingual students. Plus, centers provide students who are ready for more with additional opportunities to explore mathematics. Family support materials are also available to help families understand the mathematical work their students are doing.

5. What is the same in IM K-5 Math beta that is in IM 6-8 Math™ and IM 9-12 Math™ authored and certified by Illustrative Mathematics?

The overarching design structure of the curriculum is the same. Plus, students:

- experience concrete, hands-on activities to develop a deep understanding for math
- ask questions, try out their ideas, explain their reasoning, and put their new understanding to use
- engage in math in meaningful ways, make connections, and see themselves as capable learners and users of mathematics

Overarching Design Structure of the IM K-12 Math™ Curriculum



6. What is different from IM K-5 Math beta from IM 6-8 Math or IM 9-12 Math authored and certified by Illustrative Mathematics?

There are a few additions and updates the IM K-5 Math writing team has made to meet the needs for K-5 math teachers and students, including:

- Lesson plans designed to fit longer a longer class period (60 minutes vs 45 minutes) with a dedicated 10 minute math routine and optional centers in grades 2-5 for periods longer than 60 minutes.
- interactive grade-level, aligned center activities to support instruction
- straightforward lesson plan, including: goals of the lesson, what students are expected to do mathematically, and associated routines to support the lesson
- reflective opportunities for teachers after each lesson and for students with journal writing prompts
- supportive activities for planning professional learning community (PLC) to highlight important math ideas and address implementation complexities
- embedded directions for building a mathematical community to foster students to express their mathematical ideas

- ongoing formative assessment support including a monitoring sheet

7. How long are the lessons in IM K-5 Math beta?

Each lesson is designed for a 60-minute class period. For educators with different class period lengths, IM provides guidance of which content can be safely added or removed to support the individual needs of teachers. You can view a sample lesson [here](#).

8. Are the lessons aligned to standards?

Yes, each lesson displays the alignment to the standards. You can see alignments for each unit in the scope and sequence [here](#).

9. How was the sequence of the curriculum determined?

Designed under the IM overarching design structure, the sequence of units were thoughtfully designed so that concepts develop in a coherent way across the school year. You can view the scope and sequence [here](#). Also, read [this blog](#): First Impressions: The First Units in IM K-5 Math.

10. Does IM K-5 Math beta include assessments?

Yes, the following assessments are included in every unit:

- embedded formative assessments (cool-downs)
- section-level assessments
- end-of-unit summative assessments

11. Does IM K-5 Math beta include resources for families?

Yes, every unit in the curriculum includes family support materials that include: big ideas students will encounter, an overview of what to expect as learning deepens, and questions to promote conversations at home about mathematics.

12. Is there an IM K-5 Math alpha pilot happening for the school year 2019-2020?

An alpha pilot is the very first pilot of the IM K-5 Math curriculum and was offered to a very select group of schools and districts during the school year 2019-2020. There are over 1,000 students piloting the curriculum in 12 states. This pilot is instrumental in providing feedback on lesson structure, content, and professional learning. The beta pilot will take the combined feedback and offer a more complete set of curriculum materials to participants.

13. How can I sign up my district to be considered for IM K-5 Math beta pilot for the school year 2020-2021?

Review the IM K-5 Math beta [requirements](#) and if you can meet the commitments, fill out the application form and select an IM Certified partner you are interested in working with. They will contact you to answer your questions.

14. Am I committed to the pilot if I fill out the application form?

No you are not. This form simply lets us know that you are interested and that you understand and agree to the terms of the pilot should you choose to participate. In addition, the form lets you select an IM Certified Partner so they can contact you directly about pricing, the IM Certified Professional Learning, and the books required for the pilot. Here is more information about [IM Certified Curriculum Distribution Partners](#)

15. Am I accepted into the program once I submit the application?

No, by completing this form it does not mean your school or district is accepted into the program, you will have to work with an IM Certified Partner to secure your spot.

16. Who do I speak to regarding the price of the IM Professional Learning and books required for the pilot?

All pricing inquiries should be directed to the IM Certified Partners. IM is not able to answer questions about pricing.

17. Do we need to apply by individual school or fill out the form once for the district?

If you would like to pilot IM K-5 Math across your district, you only need to complete one form. You don't need to submit a form for each school.

18. How many beta pilot districts will there be?

To support successful implementations and feedback, we are looking for a select cohort of committed classrooms that represent a diverse set of districts across the country. As spots are limited, we strongly suggest you commit as early as possible.

19. I am interested in becoming an IM Certified facilitator to deliver IM K-5 Math beta professional learning. How can I learn more?

The application will be available October 22, 2019. You can learn more [here](#).