

ILLUSTRATIVE MATH GRADES K2-6



EVENT SUMMARY

Session Overview

On **August 21, 2025** and **August 26, 2025**, the Telescope Network hosted a Planning Cohort on the topic of implementing the Illustrative Math curriculum to provide all students access to rich mathematical tasks and learning experiences, with a specific focus on MLLs. Nora Li (Sumner Elementary School) and Lisa Schad (Dante Alighieri School) were the facilitators at this event. We had **32** participants from **7** different BPS schools join this session.



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What is a Planning Cohort?

In a Planning Cohort, educators collaborate with colleagues across BPS around a specific curriculum or content area to develop habits of effective and efficient planning; discuss with a planning coach and/or peers specific challenges around implementation, and get support as they plan for changes to their practice.

Credits
12 PD hr
Or 1 ALC

Why this topic?

This session topic was identified as part of the [Telescope Network Spring 2025 needs assessment](#). When asked to identify a current challenge, Early Childhood and Elementary school educators are seeking planning resources and support for adapting new district curricula. Since spring 2023, educator responses that mention curriculum & planning have increased to 30%. Within responses for curriculum and planning, educators are seeking planning resources and support for adapting new district curricula. Additionally, educators mention wanting to find curricula that are responsive to students of color, multilingual students, and students with cultural heritage outside the US.

- *"I would like to explore more in math and think about modifying math content to make it more accessible for my English Language Learners."* -Elementary Educator
- *"I would like to work on developing my unit planning skills. Given that I modify so much of my content I do get overwhelmed"* -Early Childhood Educator

Planning Cohort Materials

- [Flyer](#)
- [Slide Deck from All Sessions](#)

Participant Artifacts

- **Coming soon!**

Participant Feedback

After the session, **97%** of participants (31 out of 32) said that they would recommend this session to a colleague. Additional comments from participants:



- “This was amazing!... I loved having the time to plan with other 2nd-grade teachers and being able to share ideas. Walking us through the unit and locating the different materials was very beneficial, especially with the language support piece.”
- “I think this PD was really well organized, I just wish I would have had it a few years ago when I was first starting with IM.”
- “This PD let us take time to explore the curriculum and find supports that I sped past in my first year.”

Participant Takeaways

We asked participants to comment on how this work impacted or will impact student learning. Sample responses:

- “It was helpful to know there are language supports such as sentence frames. My question is, how about EL's students who speak NO English? How can I support them?... For example, having them understand what I'm asking of them during a notice and wonder, or explaining an assignment.”
- “Unpacking the unit was very effective, as it allowed me to organize resources ahead of time, anticipate challenges, and identify opportunities for differentiation. This preparation will save instructional time later.”

Next Steps

- This Planning Cohort included six follow-up sessions on Zoom on 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, and 10/30.
- [Telescope Events Calendar](#) for future PD sessions and social events.

Additional Resources

Event facilitators: Nora Li (facilitating teacher) and Lisa Schad (facilitating teacher), and Amanda Hathaway (Telescope Networker)

Visit bostonpublicschools.org/telescope for more information. Email us at telescope@bostonpublicschools.org.



Part 3: Language Supports

1. What's already built into the curriculum and how do we find it?

- Sentence Stems at the Unit Level
- Vocabulary at the Unit Level
- IM Math Language Routines (MLRs)

