

EMPower's Niche

About the Pedagogy of *EMPower*

The *EMPower* curriculum focuses on learning for understanding. It embeds teacher support and is transformative, yet realistic, for multilevel classrooms.

EMPower challenges students and teachers to consistently extend their ideas of what it means to do math. The curriculum focuses on mathematical reasoning, communication, and problem solving with a variety of approaches and strategies, not just rote memorization and symbol manipulation.

Mathematics is meaningful within a social context. While mathematical truths are universal, the meaning and relevance of numbers changes according to the setting and culture. Therefore, the *EMPower* pedagogy is focused on sets of connected activities that require communication and discourse. The program fosters a learning community in which students are encouraged to expand their understanding of mathematics through:

- Exploring ideas in open-ended investigations
- Working collaboratively
- Sharing ideas orally and in writing
- Discovering multiple ways for solving problems.

Key features of curriculum activities provide:

- Clear mathematical goals
- Contexts that are engaging and useful for young people and adults
- Opportunities to strengthen mathematical language and communication skills
- Various ways of entering and solving problems
- Puzzles that draw students into problems and motivate them to seek a solution.

Research and resources that influence *EMPower* pedagogy include:

- The [Principles and Standards for School Mathematics](#) (NCTM, 2000), as well as frameworks that are adult-focused, such as the [Equipped for the Future Content Standards](#) (Stein, 2000)
- The [Massachusetts ABE Curriculum Frameworks for Mathematics and Numeracy](#) (Massachusetts Department of Education, 2005)
- The [Adult Numeracy Network's Framework for Adult Numeracy Standards](#) (Curry, Schmitt, & Waldron, 1995). The curriculum fosters a pedagogy of learning for understanding; it embeds teacher support and is transformative, yet realistic, for multilevel classrooms.
- The [College and Career Readiness Standards](#) (CCRSAE) informed the changes in the three revised *EMPower* books. [Click here for more information about the alignment of *EMPower*™ series to CCRSAE.](#)

