

## Cesar E. Chavez: One of Chicago's Toughest Neighborhoods Closes the Math Achievement Gap

Located in Chicago's Back of the Yards, a neighborhood historically known for housing the stockyards that fueled the meatpacking industry in the twentieth century, Cesar E. Chavez Multicultural Academic Center serves a working-class community plagued by poverty and gang violence. But you wouldn't know it by looking at the academic achievement and attendance rates of Chavez students. In fact, they rank "Far Above Average," reaching 97th percentile for math attainment and 86th percentile for math growth, compared to a national average of 50th percentile.

Principal Barton Dassinger credits innovative programs aimed at making the school a "21st century community learning center" -- from an expanded school day to working with families to ensure student attendance to data-driven practices and tools like MIND Research Institute's ST Math program to create a culture of math success across all grades.

After the first two years of using ST Math, starting in 2010, Dassinger saw something he'd never seen before: two students receiving perfect math scores on the ISAT (assessment before PARCC).

The positive results led Dassinger to expand ST Math throughout the school. And as teachers saw the impact on their students' learning, he says, they incorporated the games into classroom teaching in order to leverage the students' enthusiasm and engagement for ST Math to deepen understanding of core curriculum.

"Our students enjoy ST Math," says Dassinger, "and are able to make connections between their independent work and their teachers' lessons, enabling them to reach their academic potential."

### Chavez Students Rank Far Above Average\* 2015 Math Attainment



Chavez students reached the 97th percentile for math attainment in 2015, compared to a national average of 50th percentile.

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— Barton Dassinger, Principal, Cesar E. Chavez Multicultural Academic Center



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## Cesar E. Chavez Multicultural Academic Center

Illinois



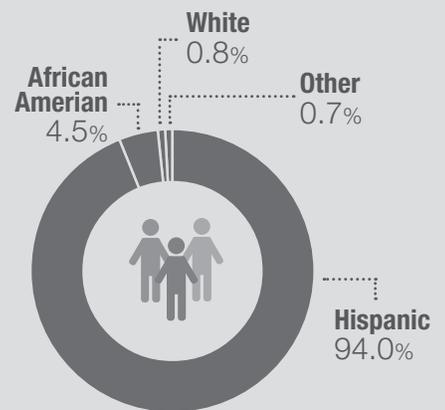
**K-8**  
ST Math  
Grades



**730**  
Students



**97.7%**  
Free/Reduced  
Lunch



To see the full story, visit:

<http://bit.ly/ChavezSTMath>