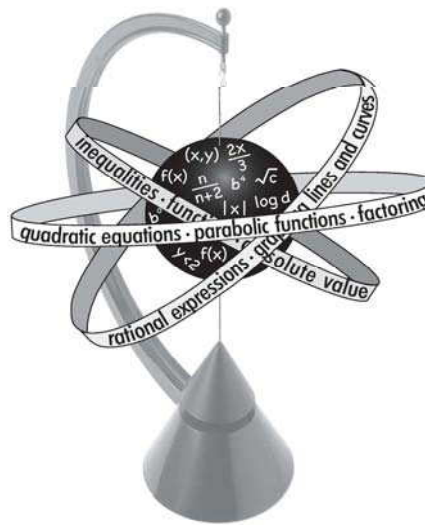


NC EMPT Project Summary 2008-2009



Change is often a very good thing. NC EMPT services to high schools were unexpectedly interrupted during the early fall of 2008, and the September invitations to participate to all public and non-public high schools were abruptly halted. After an exhausting battle with the organization that has supplied our placement testing questions for the past twelve years, we decided to move on. So we dug in our heels, carefully researched the current math placement tests given at NC community colleges and UNC institutions, listened to suggestions for improvement made by participating teachers, consulted with EMPT programs in other states, and then offered a new and improved “practice” math placement exam during the spring of 2009. As a facsimile of actual college math placement exams, the new test is more comprehensive and now includes diverse questions from Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. We expanded and updated the choices students have when indicating their future college major, and the individualized information we provide about the required math courses for these majors is even more helpful. Our new logo design as seen above represents two things: a positive move towards helping better prepare high school students for the 21st century, and our efforts to provide the best reality check of readiness for college-level mathematics. Incredibly, there is still no cost to participating students or high schools for our timely and eye-opening services. For the past thirteen years, NC EMPT strongly continues as an early intervention program sponsored by the State of North Carolina. Two pages of informative *NC EMPT Quick Stats* follow.



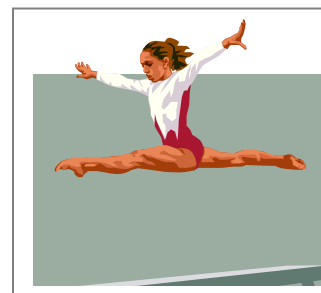
Despite the turbulent circumstances during the fall of 2008, loyal high school teachers quickly came aboard during the second semester. Dr. Robert Bernhardt, director, and Ellen Hilgoe, associate director, remained steadfastly at the helm. In all, nearly 24,000 students participated within just five short months. This represents more than half of the number who participated the previous year. Most reassuringly, the number of teachers participating this year was 617 which represents only a 29% decline from the previous year. Despite the unfortunate missed opportunity to offer the testing service during the fall, our quick spring rebound still qualified the program to remain the largest early math placement testing program in the nation!

Paper-and-pencil still remains the most convenient and popular of our avenues of testing. In 2008-2009, 88% of participating schools utilized this method of testing. In its third year of promotion and availability, Web-based testing was embraced by only 29 high schools. Explanations for the choices of testing avenues made by teachers can be found in the “Evaluation of the 2008-2009 Year” beginning on p. 51. Ohio EMPT, the longest running early math placement testing program in the nation, has also noted the preference by high school math teachers for paper-and-pencil testing. According to Dr. Ed Laughbaum, director of Ohio EMPT, only 10-12% of their participating students used Web-based testing last year.

The NC EMPT Program remains a windfall for students hoping and planning to further their education by attending a college or university. It offers a wealth of current resources to help students avoid the costly pitfalls of math remediation at the college level. Representatives from the mathematics departments of University of North Carolina (UNC) institutions and North Carolina community colleges are members of the advisory board. Representatives from the NC Department of Public Instruction and the UNC General Administration are also included. The board meets annually to update the NC EMPT test and to ensure that it remains a facsimile of the math placement tests given on their own campuses (see pp. 6-7). In addition, students receive individualized results with eye-opening advice about their current mathematical strengths and weaknesses, beginning required math courses for their chosen college major, and the actual math placement testing procedure used at the NC community college or UNC institution of their choice (see pp. 17-20). High school teachers and administrators are kept abreast of the latest news and updates regarding mathematics at the NC Department of Public Instruction and the UNC General Administration. The NC EMPT Web site: www.ncempt.org provides students, parents, teachers, and administrators with up-to-date information related to college mathematics placement testing. Articulation continues to be a major staff effort as the NC EMPT Program strives to improve communication at all levels of education and help bridge the divide between high school and college-level mathematics.



**Make a
Successful
Leap
from
High School
to
College-level
Mathematics!**



Update: August 2009



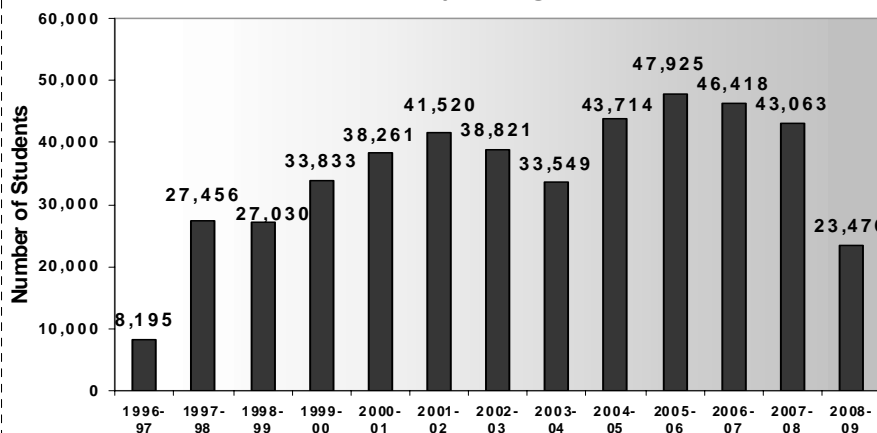
NC EMPT Quick Stats

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 Web site: www.ncempt.org

What is NC EMPT? The NC Early Math Placement Testing Program provides high school students with a non-threatening, eye-opening, reality check of their readiness for college-level mathematics... and it is a FREE service to high schools and students!

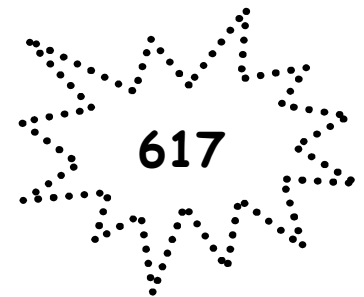


Students Participating in NC EMPT



* Note that testing during 2008-2009 occurred only during the second half of the school year.

High School Math Teachers Participating in NC EMPT during 2008-09:



Grade Level of Participating Students, 2008-2009

- ✓ 36% seniors
- ✓ 37% juniors
- ✓ 20% sophomores
- ✓ 4% freshmen
- ✓ 3% did not respond

FAST FEEDBACK!

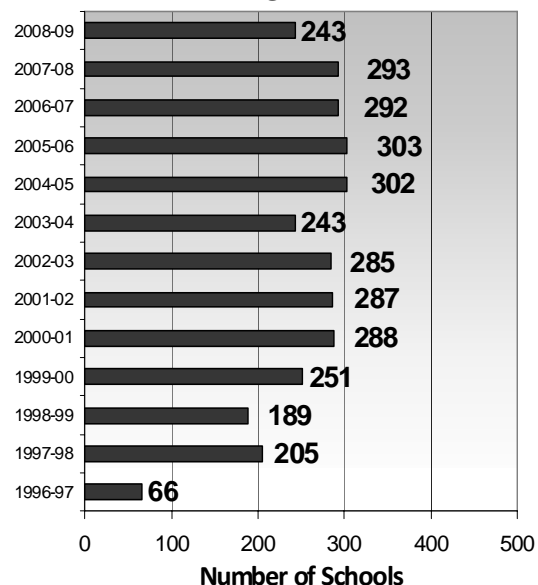
Average turnaround time for the return of test results to 23,476 students last year

was **2.4** days!!

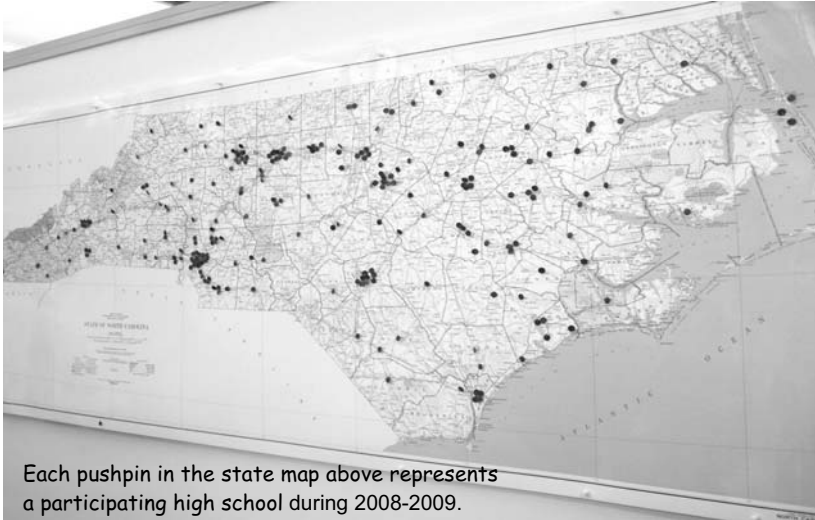


NC EMPT has been continuously directed by faculty and staff at East Carolina University since the program's inception.

High Schools Participating in NC EMPT



NC EMPT Participation S-T-R-E-T-C-H-E-S Across ALL of North Carolina!



Registration and participation in NC EMPT is *free-of-charge* to all public and non-public high schools.

Register now at:
<http://www.ncempt.org>
for the 2009-2010 year

Did you know that the NC EMPT Web site has a wealth of information about math placement testing at colleges and universities statewide?! CHECK IT OUT: www.ncempt.org



WHO should take the valuable practice math placement test offered by NC EMPT?



High school students enrolled in:

- Algebra II
- Integrated Math III
- Advanced Functions and Modeling
- Pre-Calculus
- Discrete Math
- Statistics
- and other upper-level math courses.

A Survey of 2008-2009 Participating Teachers found. . .

- ♥ **83%** strongly agreed or agreed that their students found their NC EMPT experience helpful and useful for future college plans.
- ♥ **89%** strongly agreed or agreed that their students were attentive and tested with a serious attitude.
- ♥ **93%** strongly agreed or agreed that the NC EMPT Program accomplished its goal of providing participating high school students with a “reality check” of their readiness for college-level mathematics.
- ♥ **96%** strongly agreed or agreed that overall the NC EMPT Program provides a valuable service to high school students and teachers.
- ♥ **97%** strongly agreed or agreed that the NC EMPT Office promptly returned hard copies of test score summaries to teachers and individualized results letters to students.

**EYE-OPENING
information
that benefits
everyone!**

Reasons why high school students and their parents like taking the NC EMPT test

- It is a reality check of the current readiness for college-level mathematics.
- It helps students understand what skills must be improved so the appropriate degree-counting math course can be taken and passed in college.
- It provides eye-opening information about the actual math placement procedure and required math course(s) for the major and institution of their choice.

Reasons why high school math teachers and administrators like NC EMPT

- It is excellent preparation for college-bound students.
- It is a non-threatening, up-to-date, “practice” math placement test with all materials provided FREE, easy administration, and immediate feedback.
- Current information about expectations and requirements in mathematics curriculum for fifty-eight community colleges and fifteen UNC institutions.

Note: NC EMPT results are quickly returned to students and teachers ONLY! Results will NOT be shared or compared!