

## What do teachers consider protected instructional time in math lessons?

### SUMMARY

- Curricular demands, time constraints, diverse student needs impedes effective lesson pacing
- Teachers must prioritize high-impact instructional strategies
- 5-minute warm-up routine “My Favorite No” maximizes instructional minutes
- Strategy used to review prior learning, analyze common errors, and cultivate growth mindset

### TRY IT: MY FAVORITE NO

- Students complete 1 problem on index card
- Collect index cards
- Sort responses into “yes” and “no” piles (correct and incorrect)
- Select response that highlights common error or misconception (the favorite “no”)
- Rewrite student solution on board
- Guide discussion and analysis:
  - Remind students, “What you’re going to see is incorrect.”
  - Ask, “What in this solution am I happy to see?”
  - Ask, “What does this person NOT understand? Where’s the mistake?”
- Rework problem, modeling correct strategy, solution, and answer

### RESEARCH

- Studies have shown daily review leads to higher student achievement
- Activating prior knowledge improves recall, solidifies connections between concepts, builds automaticity
- Leveraging errors in problem solving improves knowledge acquisition and retention

[CLICK FOR A DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST](#)



## DISCUSSION

- What do teachers consider protected instructional time in math lessons?
- When interruptions occur, what practices get pushed to the side? What practices are prioritized?
- How would “My Favorite No” look if implemented in your classroom?
- What challenges would you anticipate?
- What other techniques do you use to achieve effective pacing of math lessons?

## SOURCES

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