

Curriculum for Adults Learning Math (CALM)



Slow Down to Speed Up

CALM was developed by beginning with the end in mind. With a focus on students being college ready by the end, the development team crafted a coherent progression of units and lessons that integrates the [CCRS](#)AE domains and levels. Even students in high level classes often have large gaps in their conceptual understanding that can go undetected until those gaps cause problems. CALM is designed to build a strong conceptual foundation for all students so that they can reinforce core understandings necessary for success on high school equivalency tests and beyond.

Key Features of CALM

- contains a progression of units and lessons that will be appropriate for ABE through ASE level classes;
- is adaptable to various settings including multi-level classes;
- is aligned to the CCRSAE and is best suited for students at CCRSAE Levels B – E (GLE 3-12)*;
- developmentally moves students to higher level math content by helping students make connections among big ideas in math;
- reflects the CCRSAE mathematics instructional shifts (focus, coherence, rigor) with particular emphasis on building a foundation of conceptual understanding;
- explicitly incorporates the Standards for Mathematical Practice into lessons;
- promotes a classroom environment characterized by student discussion, productive struggle with challenging non-routine problems, and the development of a growth mindset;
- accelerates student progress through HSE credential attainment in preparation for success in postsecondary education and/or training.



CALM represents a shift from a traditional procedural approach to a conceptual approach where students construct understanding through hands-on activities and group work. To use CALM effectively, teachers need to be comfortable teaching conceptually, which may be a shift for them as well. [The Adult Numeracy Center at TERC](#) has a variety of professional development offerings that can help teachers deepen their own conceptual understanding and build comfort with bringing a conceptual and hands-on approach into the classroom.

** A small number of students may need instruction at CCRSAE Level A. CALM only addresses three of the 16 Level A standards. For suggestions on working with numeracy-level math students (GLE<2, corresponding to CCRSAE level A), see [Meeting the Needs of Numeracy Level Math Students \(GLE<2\)](#).*

For more information about CALM, contact Heidi Schuler at heidi_schuler@terc.edu.

[CALM](#) was developed by the [Adult Numeracy Center at TERC](#) with funding from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Adult and Community Learning Services.



[Click here](#) to hear teachers and students describe CALM!