



FOUNDER'S JOURNEY

BS and M.Eng in EECS, MIT

M.Ed in Science Curriculum & Teaching, **Boston University**

NSF / NIH SBIR Awardee

Prisms Founding!

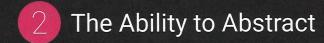
- HS Physics & Math Teacher

- Director of Secondary STEM:

Boston Public, NYC DOE, Success Academies

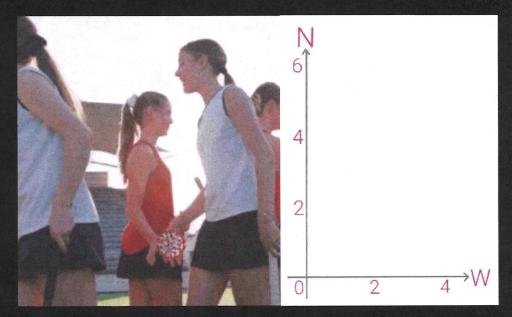
WE KNOW HOW WE LEARN MATH BEST

Spatial Reasoning





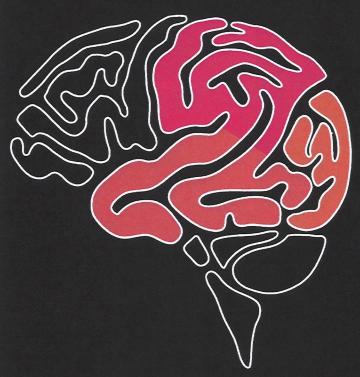




Spatial reasoning and <u>abstraction from real life experiences</u> are the top indicators of success in the STEM fields

WE KNOW HOW WE LEARN MATH BEST

We are wired to learn experientially



PERCEIVING

SEEING

• DOING

MOVING

Thinking is muscular

Learning is **experiential**

Information is **forgotten**

- Einstein

BUT EXISTING TOOLS DON'T EXPLOIT THESE FACTS

How do the leading Algebra learning solutions teach exponential growth functions, today?

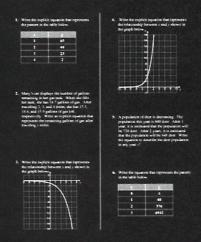
$$y = 5^x$$

X	у	
1	5 -	3×5
2	25 _	
3	125 -	×5

A town is experiencing an outbreak of a virus. The town **began with one person** who had the virus.

The number of people infected each week grows by a rate of 5.

Write an equation that models this scenario.



Memorize the form divorced from meaning

Memorize the growth pattern

Memorize key words and a procedure to execute

Run procedure over and over again

Students learn some reflexes, but leave with no understanding or intuition.



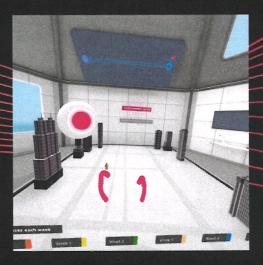
Algebra I - Sample module: Exponential Functions



Students **physically experience** viral growth rate in a food hall.



They visualize the mathematical pattern underlying the spread.



And **touch and move** to physically internalize multiplicative growth.



To **develop fluency** grounded in deep structural understanding.

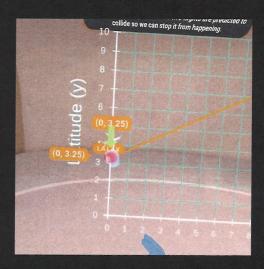
Algebra I - Sample module: Systems of Linear Equations



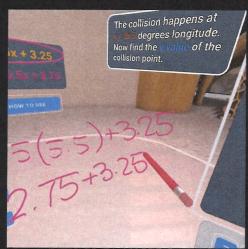
Students physically experience being a flight dispatcher



They **model** flights to discover the point of collision

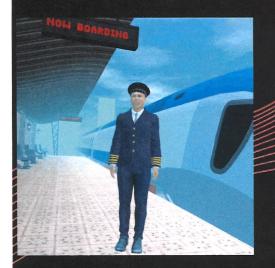


And visualize the mathematical pattern of each flight path's rate of change

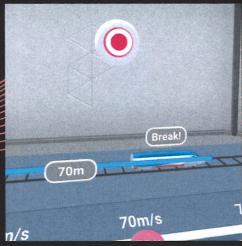


To **develop fluency** grounded in deep structural understanding

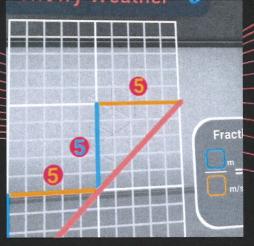
Middle School Math - Sample module: Rates of Change



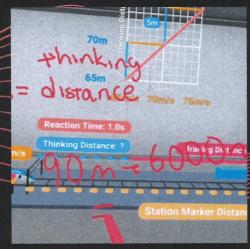
Students physically experience their reaction times operating a high speed train's braking system



They use **tactile graphs** to record the mathematical relationships they experienced

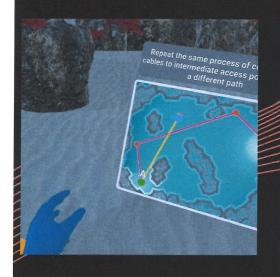


And visualize different representations of rates of change

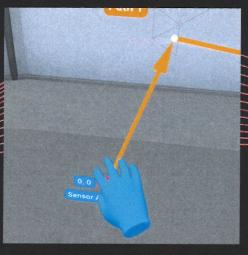


To create and interpret equations and solve problems in context

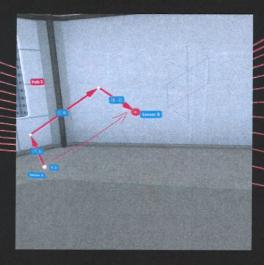
Advanced Algebra - Sample module: Vectors



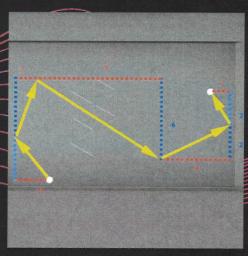
Students **physically create** an array of underwater cables



They **model** the array with vectors and visualize their x- and y-components



To identify key **math parameters** across representations



And **formally define** the algorithms they intuited through movement

ALGEBRA LIBRARY

Ten interactive, experiential learning Algebra I modules

MODULE	MISSION	SNAPSHOT
Linear Functions Withstanding Floods	Work as a Scientist to determine when a melting glacier will cause sea levels to rise enough to impact businesses on Miami's shoreline so they can protect their livelihoods	
Quadratics Urbanization	Assume the role of an Urban Landscape Architect to find the dimensions of the largest possible greenspace , given spatial and budgetary constraints, to improve the quality of life in our dense urban spaces	
Exponential Functions Pandemic	Work as a Public Health Policy Analyst in a medium-sized US city to determine the number of weeks until the city's hospitals reach capacity as an unknown virus spreads across a city	
Systems of Linear Equations Flight Control	Step into the role of an Air Traffic Controller at O'Hare International Airport to determine how to redirect the flight paths of two planes headed for a collision.	
Linear Regression Landfills	Join a team of Urban Planners in a National Park to determine when the amount of waste produced by a city's growing population will overwhelm its existing waste management capabilities	

Can be used as a enhancement / supplemental to your core curriculum, targeted intervention, after school tutoring, and summer school enrichment programs.

ALGEBRA LIBRARY

Nine interactive, experiential learning Algebra I modules

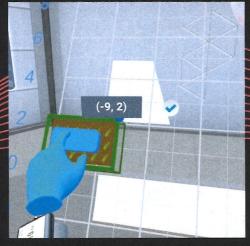
MODULE	MISSION	SNAPSHOT
System of Linear Inequalities Treating Malaria	Support a team of local Medicinal Chemists in Nigeria by finding the region of the forest where the most wormwood plant grows to make medicine for Malaria patients who need treatment immediately.	
Roots and Rational Exponents Al Chips	Work as a Building Engineer at an AI start-up to find the correct dimensions of a server room to host the next generation of hardware that's training our AI systems.	
Absolute Value Functions Seismic Waves	Step into the shoes of a Geotechnical Engineer to determine which types of buildings will survive the next major earthquake in Kyoto, Japan.	
Factoring Quadratics Drone Deliveries	Take on the role of an Aviation Engineer to determine the ideal distance between the time of release of a package and the landing spot for light package drone deliveries to reduce traffic in Newark, New Jersey.	

Can be used as a
enhancement /
supplemental to your core
curriculum, targeted
intervention, after school
tutoring, and summer school
enrichment programs.

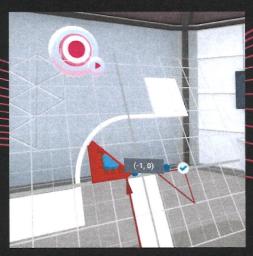
Geometry - Sample module: Transformations



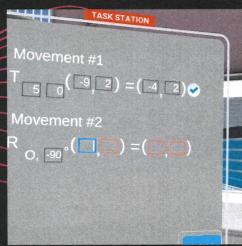
Students **physically experience** an urban rooftop farm.



They **spatially** perform **translations** and **rotations**.



And make connections between the movement and math representations

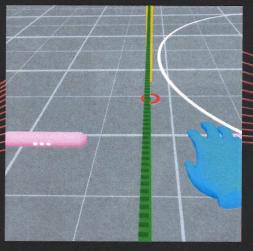


To **develop fluency**, they connect to formal notation for efficient communication

Geometry - Sample module: Circle Equations



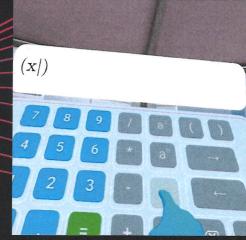
Students physically **build** a Yurt in the Himalayas



They **experience** the parameters that define a circle



previous mathematical concepts



And make connections to To derive the equation for a circle using right triangles

GEOMETRY LIBRARY

Six interactive, experiential learning Geometry modules

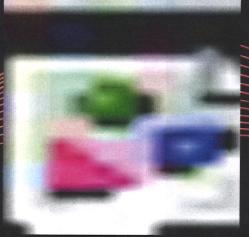
MODULE	MISSION	SNAPSHOT
Trigonometry Shadows	Determine the minimum height of a new school building that creates a 15.12 meter shadow over the playground during recess in the fall and spring seasons	
Distance Formula Cable Cars	Design a cable car route that travels between towns in less than 30 minutes	Source from the Continuent Strate, (1)
Circle Equations Yurts	Design three circular yurts to sustainably and comfortably accommodate 10 people	- 17 J
Solids of Rotation Affordable Housing	Design a building that is affordable to residents and worthwhile for real estate developers to build	
Transformations Rooftop Gardens	Maximize produce yield of an urban rooftop garden	1000
Similarity and Congruence Restoring Mosaics	Restore ancient mosaics by creating a math algorithm that quickly matches missing pieces	

Can be used as a enhancement / supplemental to your core curriculum, targeted intervention, after school tutoring, and summer school enrichment programs.

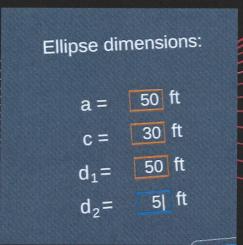
Advanced Algebra - Sample module: Conic Sections



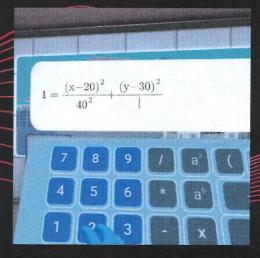
Students **physically experience** sound paths in a whispering gallery.



They use **3D hand models** to identify the foci of an ellipse.

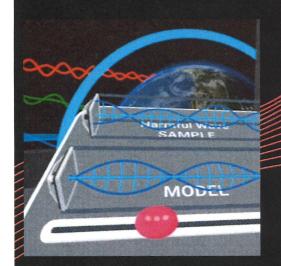


And derive elements of the equation of an ellipse.

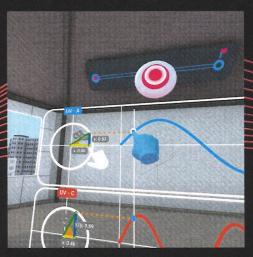


To **develop fluency** grounded in deep structural understanding.

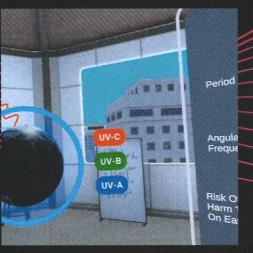
Advanced Algebra - Sample module: Periodic Functions



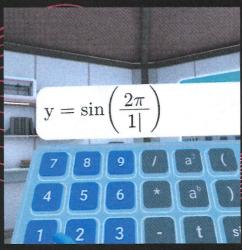
Students **physically experience** UV waves interacting with the ozone layer.



They **touch and move** to understand physical properties of sinusoids.



And derive the definitions for period and angular frequency.



To **develop fluency** grounded in deep structural understanding.

BIOLOGY LIBRARY

Eight interactive, experiential learning Biology modules

MODULE	MISSION	SNAPSHOT
Biomolecules World Food Programme	Join a tearn of Humanitarian Nutritionists to build a food shipment plan to send to South Sudan that will fulfill the nutritional requirements based on the underlying brochemistry of each substance and its use in the body	
Cells Tissue Regeneration	Work as a Biomedical Researcher to prepare stem cells for tissue regeneration therapy by ensuring they differentiate correctly and are able to reproduce effectively for burn victims who've been affected by wildfires in CA.	A ROOM
Cellular Energy Coral Bleaching	Assume the role of a Microbiologist to build a model showing the energetic chemical interactions between coral polyps and zooplankton to inform an underground sensor system that maintains the health of the Great Barner Reef.	
Mitosis Lab Grown Meat	Work as a Food Scientist to help scale a local restaurant's lab-grown meat operation so they can make a healthy, environmentally friendly burger.	Stemblished pacin
DNA Structure & Function Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria	Step into the shoes of a Microbial Geneticist to program CRISPR technology to remove the gene causing a bacteria's antibiotic resistance.	
Genetics Dog Breeding Standards	Work as a Geneticist to create a breeding plan that will eliminate three harmful traits from a population of pugs in four generations or fewer.	E
Evolution Predict Species Changes	Assume the role of an Evolutionary Biologist to determine which species that Inuit populations depend on are at risk for extinction as the environment experiences changes in the Arctic Circle.	
Ecology Invasive Species	Join a team of Ecologists to identify the most effective solution for removing invasive feral hogs and restoring an Alabama ecosystem and safety for their farmers and all citizens.	

Can be used as a core curriculum or in informal learning for targeted intervention, after school tutoring, and summer school enrichment programs.

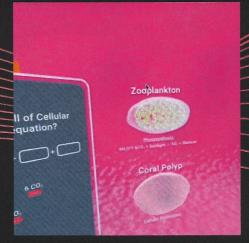
Biology - Sample module: Cellular Energy



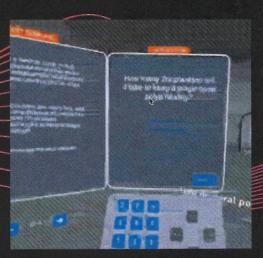
Students **explore** coral bleaching through time relate it to the symbiotic relationship between plankton and coral



They **physically build** the steps of photosynthesis and cellular respiration



So they can **derive the summary equations** for
each, demystifying energy
transfer and carbon transfer

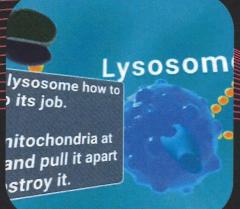


To determine the precise number of plankton each coral needs before becoming bleached

Biology - Sample module: Cells



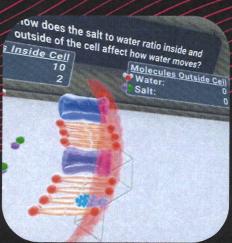
Students **apply** different skin tissue regeneration therapies to a burn wound on a firefighter, and observe them each fail to fully heal the burn.



They discover the function of organelles by **physically performing** the role of each inside of a cell.



So they can build specialized skin cells with the correct concentrations of organelles to make skin tissue.



And then **design a treatment solution** that will control the movement of water into and out of the cells.

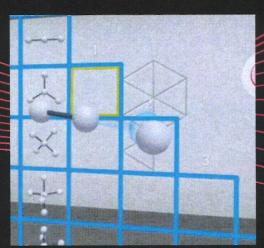
Chemistry - Sample module: Intermolecular Forces and Bonds



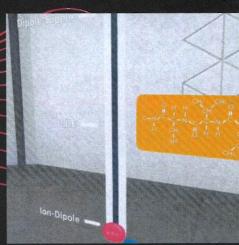
Students **physically experience** insulin binding to protein receptors in a blood vessel to reduce a Diabetes patient's blood sugar



They **tactically explore** the different types and strengths of chemical bonds that impact the molecular structure of insulin



They **construct molecules** with atoms and lone pairs to understand the molecular geometry of insulin.



To create a 3D insulin molecule using covalent bonds and dipole-dipole forces.

Frame

VR





Synthesis Activity

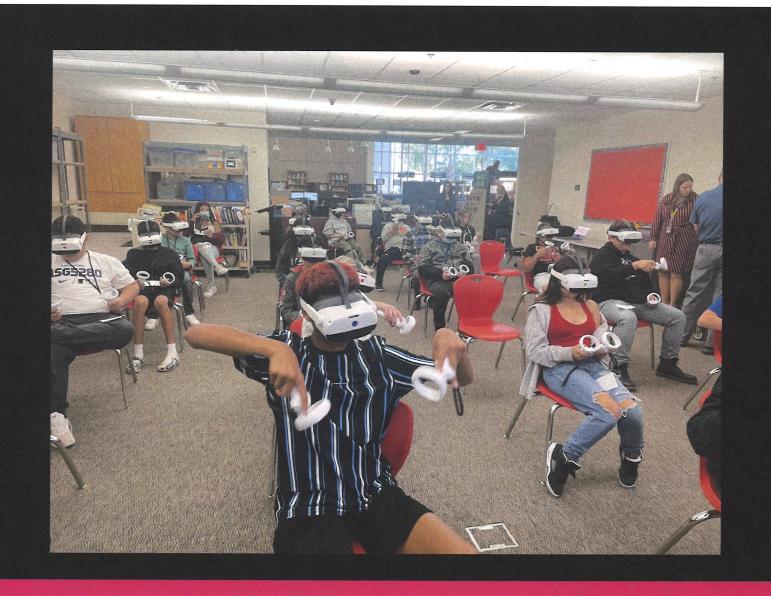
Debrief

Instructional Design











A NEW SPATIAL CURRICULUM

- **Virtual Reality Content Modules** for learning
- Kinesthetic Skill Building Modules





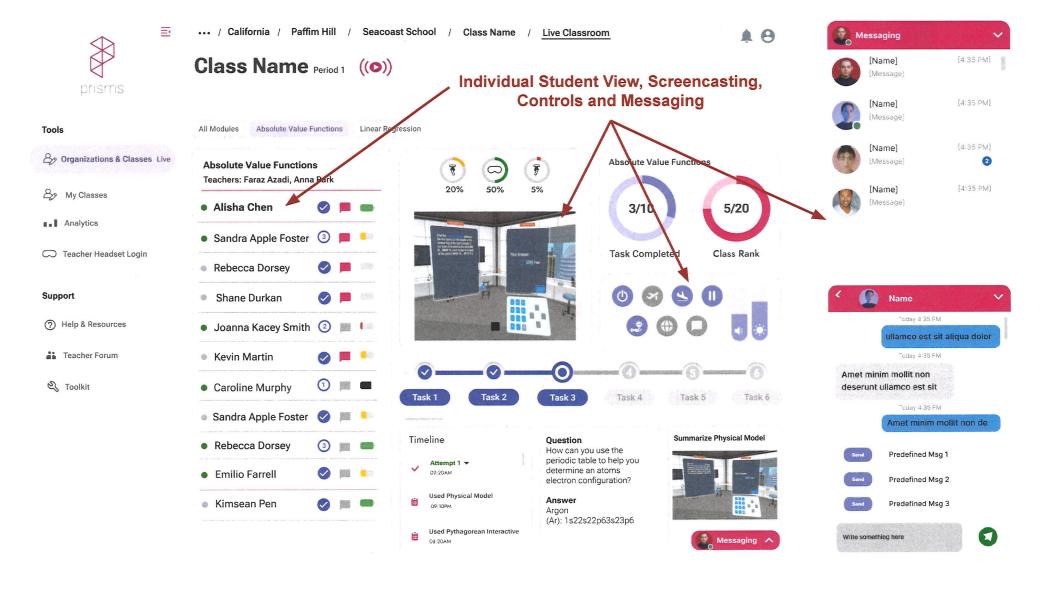
- Real-time teacher feedback

Connection to paper / pencil



Teacher upskilling





☼ Organizations & Classes

My Classes

Teacher Headset Login

? Help & Resources

Teacher Forum

S Toolkit

a. Analytics

Support

Tools

Part 2

Class Performance Report

Class Name Period 1

By Module By Date

All Modules Absolute Value Functions Linear Regression

Name Run Number

Alisha Chen Run 1

Name	Run Number	Completion Rate	CFU 1	CFU 2	
Alisha Chen	Run 1	3 of 12 Completed 35%	Assign	Assign	View/Edit CFU
Sandra Apple Foster	Run 3	12 of 12 Completed 100%	7/8 95%	6/8 65%	View/Edit CFU
Shane Durkan	Run 2	7 of 12 Completed 65%	7/8 85%	Assigned	View/Edit CFU
🖍 Joanna Kacey Smith	Run 1	d of 17 Completed 67%	7/8 85%	Assign	View/Edit CFU
Alex Jennison	Run 1	3 of 17 Completed 1889	8/8 100%	8/8 100%	View/Edit CFU
Kevin Martin	Run 3	12 of 12 Completed 100%	Assign	Assign	View/Edit OFU
Caroline Murphy	Run 1	12 of 12 Completed, 100%	7/8 95%	6/8 65%	View/Edit CFU
Justin Thach	Run 1	8 of 12 Completed - 67%	Assign	Assign	View/Edit CFU
Michelle Walker	Run 3		6/8 65%	7/8 95%	View/Edit CFU

Q X

View and Edit CFU

CFU 1 CFU 2



 $\exists \otimes$

Alisha Chen

Module Name CFU 1

Overall Score 7/8 85% Edit

Feedback

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Question 1 Sc	ore
The astronauts went to build a research facility and a gym as part of their Mars colony, each of which	
wait require additional targets. L. The row gram and resolutions will require 42,000,000 L of oxygen per day. Rewrite this value is scientific notation. A -3.3×10^{-2}	Sco
B · 0.43 × 10 ³	
C-43 × 10*	
 ○ U - 4.3 × 10⁴ 	
F · 0.43 × 10°	
F - 43 × 10 ⁷	
2. It takes 10 ⁴ mW of power to produce 1 liter of oxygen. How much power is required to produce all the caygen needed for these new faculties? White your asswer in scientific notation.	Scor
(XX mit)	
3. The power needed to produce asygen is generated by solar panels, and each solar banel produces 10 ^r mW of power. Use surenific notation to express how many solar panels will be required to power these new hacilines.	Scor
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Feedback	
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Question 3

You do howing for environ each and effect in numeric proteins into the complete chammas whenever established its process includes a major of each consular reviews for our one president includes the environment of each consular review of the our one president.





Fractions

CFU₂

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4

Question 5

✓ Completed CFUs

△ New CFUs

∧ Fractions

CFU₁

CFU 2

- ✓ Linear Functions
- ∨ Factoring Quadratics

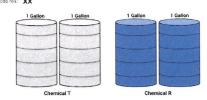
Account Settings

Question 3

You are looking for another safe and effective natural pesticide ms, this time using the chemicals retenane (Chemical T), and tea tree extract (Chemical T). The 1-gallon barrel provided shows the precise amounts of each chemical needed for the new pesticide



 There are 2 gallons each of Chemical T and Chemical R in a warehouse, How many full gallons of the pesticide mix can you create using the 4 total gallons available? Use the diagram to help you.
 Gallons of pesticide mix: XX



2. If there are 20 gallons of Chemical R, how many gallons of posticide mix can you create? Gallons of posticide mix: XX

Please explain how you got to the answer

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Previous Question

Next Question

PRISMS PROFESSIONAL LEARNING TRAJECTORY











1. Goal-Setting and Curriculum Integration

District instructional leaders and Prisms staff collaboratively **set short-and long-term implementation goals** and seamlessly embed Prisms modules into teachers' year-long pacing calendars. Prisms modules are integrated to *teach* and re-engage on bottleneck topics, not only review.

2. Onboarding Institute

Prisms staff lead a full-day professional development session with teachers to fully internalize the mission and origin of Prisms, VR hardware, lesson cycle, supporting curriculum materials, Teacher Dashboard, and the culture and mindsets needed for successful adoption.

3. Coaching Cycle #1

Prisms Coaches conduct lesson study with teachers to intellectually prepare to facilitate a Prisms lesson and model exemplary lesson execution in the classroom.

4. Coaching Cycle #2

Prisms Coaches conduct lesson study with teachers to intellectually prepare to facilitate a Prisms lesson and co-teach/observe/give feedback on teacher execution in the classroom.

5. Ongoing Support

Between coaching cycles, Prisms teachers have round-the-clock access to coaches and tech support to answer any questions or plan lessons.

Teachers and kids finally love Math class

- Just so you know this is going to change lives. 9th grade student
- I would have passed Algebra if I had this. 12th grade student
- It was the first time he didn't want to leave Math. I spoke to his teacher after and she said that she hasn't been able to reach him, until now. District leader, OH
- The ability to rebuild relationships with my most disengaged kids is an unknown gift of the platform. Math teacher, MA





More from our teachers and students here.

CURRENT RESULTS AND UPCOMING STUDIES

Early Quantitative Results

Increase between control and treatment groups on standards aligned assessments on Exponential Functions

The vast majority of students feel that Prisms lessons helped them understand math better

10% In a 1-week study, student achievement increased 10%

All beta-year district partners renewed, with most districts expanding student access to Prisms

Early Qualitative Results

"Graphing is an amazing thing in VR – I loved it...I could be in the graph and understand exactly how it works and relate it back to my 'real world' experiences in the first part of the module...This is really big for kids like me who have trouble visualizing things." - 9th Grade Student

"I can say that after one PD with Prisms,
I have the enthusiasm and excitement of
a green first-year teacher. It left me
thinking and even saying at the end of
the PD, 'Where have you been all my
life?""

- 30th year teacher

Three WestEd Studies

Feasibility
VR in any classroom setting

2 Implementation
Best practices and use cases

Randomized Control Trial Efficacy and efficiencies achieved