COACHING WITH COMPUTER ASSISTED-LEARNING (CAL)

University of Chicago Education Lab | Philip Oreopoulos, University of Toronto
What is Coaching with CAL?

Coaching with Computer-Assisted Learning (CAL) aims to support Grade 3-9 math teachers as they provide students with an opportunity to receive personalized learning with the help of computer-assisted learning tools, such as MATHia or Khan Academy. Teachers will be provided a “Coach” to help you and your students incorporate CAL into a weekly routine of reinforcement and mastery. Your Coach will meet with you before February 2022 to set up a plan, be available to support you throughout the rest of the school year, and be responsible for monitoring progress and communication about the program with you.

Participation is voluntary and teachers can choose to discontinue following the program at any time.

The program does not require teachers to alter their classroom setup. Instead, Coaching with CAL aims to provide an easy-to-follow set of steps for teachers to increase students’ practice time with CAL, during and after school. This program offers a free, customizable, enjoyable, and effective learning experience for students. It has the potential to not only improve student outcomes but also save time for teachers.

The program is being implemented as part of a research project by the University of Chicago Education Lab. Approximately half of teachers who sign up will be able to participate in the second semester of SY2021-22. Program spots will be allocated randomly to teachers by lottery. This setup provides the ability to evaluate the impact of the program and provide clear evidence for whether such a program would be worth continuing and encouraging other teachers to follow.

If you are not selected to participate this year, you may be offered an opportunity to participate in future years. Teachers will receive a $50 gift card for signing up regardless of if they are selected to participate.
**What does participation mean?**

1. All math teachers from grades 3-9 are eligible and encouraged to participate.

2. Each teacher is provided a ‘Coach’ to help them incorporate CAL into a weekly routine of reinforcement and mastery.

3. Coaches assist in setting up accounts, developing mastery goals, and establishing a classroom routine that aligns with teacher expectations and student abilities.

4. Teachers are provided pre-class training and dedicated weekly personal and administrative support throughout Q3 and Q4 of SY2021-22.

Teachers can sign up to participate in the program by CLICKING HERE.
What is the time commitment?

For teachers who are offered a spot in the program, during January 2022 we ask that you review the Introductory Training Video provided by the research team (1 hour) and meet once with your assigned Coach (1 hour). Optionally, you may also complete other trainings or professional development for the CAL program (we estimate this will take 2-4 hours). During the semester, you will meet weekly with your coach for about 30 minutes and communicate by email as needed.

What are the program benefits?

- The program is designed to increase the amount of personalized learning time in math that students receive throughout the school year
- Computer-assisted learning allows teachers to automate practice in a way that may reduce workload
- Teachers receive personal training and active support from a dedicated Coach
- The program is an opportunity to try a research-backed approach for improving classroom outcomes that can be applied in later years
- Teachers will get a chance to provide feedback and input in future program design
- Teachers receive compensation for participation ($50 for sign-up and an additional up to $375 compensation for time spent on trainings for teachers who participate)

QUESTIONS? EMAIL CALTEAM@UCHICAGO.EDU.