Good News from A. B. Combs Elementary, Perry County

A. B. Combs Elementary is experiencing outstanding gains in mathematics achievement, according to the latest Kentucky Core Content Test (KCCT) mathematics results.

A. B. Combs Elementary began participating in the KCM Primary Mathematics Intervention Program in 2007 when fewer than half of the third, fourth, and fifth grade student population received proficient or distinguished scores on the mathematics portion of the KCCT.

In 2010, more than 90% of the elementary students received proficient or distinguished scores on the mathematics portion of the KCCT.

Nearly 70% of the students in 2010 received distinguished scores. The percent of students more than tripled, as less than 20% of students received distinguished scores in 2007.

The apprentice and novice scores are down from 52% in 2007 to less than 10% in 2010.

Rhoda Bryant (pictured below), Mathematics Intervention Teacher (MIT) at A. B. Combs Elementary, reflects on the recent success of student achievement in mathematics, “[we focus on] early intervention, so by the time they get to third grade, they don’t need intervention.”

In addition to providing intervention in small groups with younger struggling students, Ms. Bryant has become a teacher leader and often provides professional development within the school, offering strategies and assistance to other teachers.

The school-wide growth in mathematics at A. B. Combs Elementary illustrates the important work of MITs who excel as teacher leaders with passion and knowledge for developing numeracy in students and helping colleagues do the same.

[Before my training as an MIT] I thought teaching was all about uniformity and the curriculum... But now I realize you can have five kids on five different levels and I can treat each child individually as much as possible.