

## **A Focus on Teachers**

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Math for America is a relatively new organization that focuses on teachers, mainly in secondary schools.

The philosophy behind MfA is that almost every education improvement begins first with teachers, and that finding ways to recruit and retain teachers who know and (importantly!) love mathematics is the crucial first-step in any reform. Retention is as important as recruitment because we lose so many of our best teachers after only a few years.

Math for America runs several programs, the largest in New York City. They all provide support for teachers and try to improve the profession of teaching in various ways, including salary supplements. These are programs that make a difference now, but they are also meant to serve as pilot projects -- to convince others that this approach is successful and can be applied more broadly. This presentation will expand on that philosophy and describe the details of the programs.