

THE DOPE MATH® EDUCATOR GUIDEBOOK

Think like a Subject Matter Expert™

JALIYLA FRASER

THE DOPE MATH® EDUCATOR

Learn Exactly What Is Preventing You
From Thinking Like A Subject Matter Expert™

GREAT TEACHING ISN'T ALWAYS ENOUGH.

Dear DOPE MATH® Educator,

Thank you for being here.

Most educators spend years becoming great teachers. We learn how to engage students, build relationships, facilitate discussions, and create meaningful learning experiences. Those skills matter, and they always will. But great teaching alone does not automatically prepare you for every opportunity that comes next.

Many educators are asked to write curriculum, coach colleagues, lead professional learning, evaluate instructional materials, or support district initiatives. The challenge is that very few of us were ever taught how to do those things. We learned how to teach curriculum, not necessarily how to design it.

Subject matter experts think differently. They understand how standards connect across grade levels. They recognize the intent behind instructional decisions. They can analyze rigor, evaluate lessons, identify gaps, and create learning experiences that produce meaningful evidence of student understanding.

The good news is that...

**Subject matter expertise is not something you are born with.
It is a skill set that can be developed.**

This guidebook was created to help you begin that journey. As you work through these pages, you'll reflect on your current strengths, identify areas for growth, and begin thinking more intentionally about curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Because opportunities will continue to come.

The question is whether you'll be ready when they do.

In your corner,



JALIYLA FRASER

THE DOPE MATH® EDUCATOR



MOST EDUCATORS NEVER BECOME SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS

Because they confuse teaching with curriculum expertise.

Many educators spend years becoming exceptional teachers. They learn how to engage students, build relationships, create classroom culture, and make mathematics accessible for learners. Those skills are valuable and should be celebrated.

The challenge is that great teaching and subject matter expertise are not the same thing. A teacher may know how to deliver a lesson effectively.

A subject matter expert understands why that lesson exists in the first place.

A teacher may know how to follow a curriculum. A subject matter expert understands how standards connect across grade levels, how rigor develops over time, and how instructional decisions influence student outcomes.

A teacher may know that students struggle with a concept. A subject matter expert can identify the misconception, explain why it occurs, and design experiences that address it. Neither role is better than the other, but they are different.

Many educators are promoted into coaching positions, curriculum writing projects, leadership roles, or district initiatives because they were outstanding teachers. Then they discover that nobody ever taught them how to analyze standards, evaluate curriculum, design assessments, or create rich mathematical tasks.

That's where the next level of your professional growth begins.

Great Teachers Focus On

- ✓ Delivering instruction
- ✓ Building culture
- ✓ Facilitating learning
- ✓ Supporting students
- ✓ Daily instruction

Subject Matter Experts Focus On

- ✓ Analyzing standards
- ✓ Understanding progressions
- ✓ Evaluating rigor
- ✓ Designing tasks
- ✓ Making instructional decisions

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT SELF-ASSESSMENT™

How close are you to thinking like a subject matter expert?

This self-assessment is designed to help you identify your current strengths and opportunities for growth as a subject matter expert. The goal is not to earn a perfect score. The goal is to identify where you are now and where your development should focus next.

Rate yourself on each statement using the scale below.

- 1 = Not Yet
- 2 = Rarely
- 3 = Sometimes
- 4 = Often
- 5 = Consistently

SECTION 1

STANDARDS ANALYSIS

Can you uncover the mathematics hidden beneath the standard?

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
I can identify the major mathematical ideas within a standard.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can explain the intent of a standard beyond what students are expected to do.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can identify prerequisite skills students need before learning a standard.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can determine whether a lesson truly aligns to the standard.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Section Score: _____ / 20

Reflection

What is one area within this section where I need additional development?

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT SELF-ASSESSMENT™

How close are you to thinking like a subject matter expert?

SECTION 2

LEARNING PROGRESSIONS

Can you see where students came from and where they're headed?

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
I can explain how a standard connects to learning from previous grade levels.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can explain how a standard prepares students for future mathematical learning.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can identify missing prerequisite knowledge that may impact student success.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can use learning progressions to make instructional decisions.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Section Score: _____ / 20

Reflection

What is one area within this section where I need additional development?

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT SELF-ASSESSMENT™

How close are you to thinking like a subject matter expert?

SECTION 3

RIGOR

Can you identify the type of thinking students are being asked to do?

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
I can distinguish between conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and application.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can identify the primary aspect of rigor emphasized within a lesson or task.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can recognize when a lesson lacks the intended rigor of a standard.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can determine whether students are reasoning mathematically or simply following procedures.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Section Score: _____ / 20

Reflection

What is one area within this section where I need additional development?

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT SELF-ASSESSMENT™

How close are you to thinking like a subject matter expert?

SECTION 4

RICH MATHEMATICAL TASKS

Can you design tasks that reveal student thinking, not just answers?

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
I can distinguish between an engaging activity and a rich mathematical task.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can design tasks that require students to explain and justify their thinking.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can identify whether a task will generate meaningful evidence of student understanding.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can modify existing tasks to increase reasoning, discourse, and problem solving.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Section Score: _____ / 20

Reflection

What is one area within this section where I need additional development?

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT SELF-ASSESSMENT™

How close are you to thinking like a subject matter expert?

SECTION 5

ASSESSMENT DESIGN

Can you gather evidence that accurately reflects what students know and can do?

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
I can design assessment items that align to the intent of a standard.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can determine what evidence would demonstrate true student understanding.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can create success criteria that reflect the mathematical goals of a lesson.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can distinguish between students who understand the mathematics and students who have memorized procedures.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Section Score: _____ / 20

Reflection

What is one area within this section where I need additional development?



YOUR SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT PROFILE

Congratulations! **You've completed the** **Subject Matter Expert Self-Assessment™**

Your score is not a measure of your value as an educator. It is a snapshot of your current curriculum expertise and highlights areas where your professional growth can have the greatest impact.

Add your section scores together to determine your overall score.

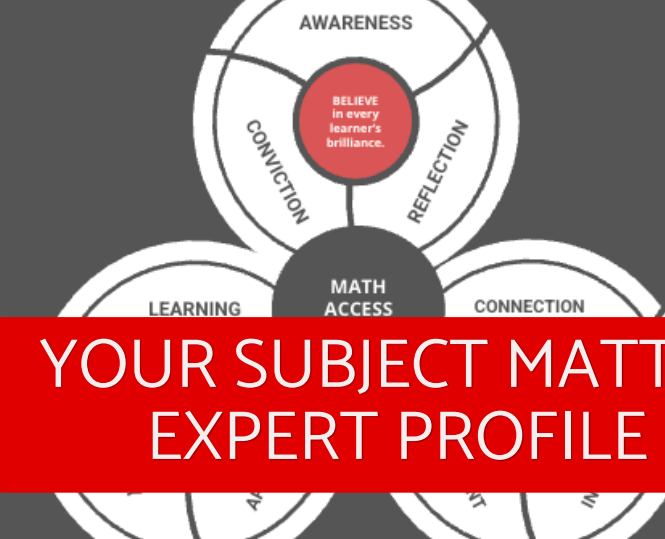
MY TOTAL SCORE

____ / 100

Identify Your Subject Matter Expert Profile

- ☐ Subject Matter Expert (81-100)
- ☐ Developing Subject Matter Expert (61-80)
- ☐ Growing Subject Matter Expert (41-60)
- ☐ Emerging Subject Matter Expert (20-40)
- ☐ Aspring Subject Matter Expert (0-20)

Turn the page to discover what your score reveals, where your biggest growth opportunities exist, and what to focus on next.



When belief, relevance, and expertise intersect —
DOPE MATH® Educators are born,
and systemic change begins.

ASPIRING SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT

0-20 POINTS

You're Earlier In The Journey Than You Think.

Based on your responses, you're likely an educator who has spent most of your career focused on classroom instruction rather than curriculum design, standards analysis, assessment development, or instructional leadership.

Most educator preparation programs teach us how to teach lessons. Few teach us how to analyze standards, evaluate rigor, identify learning progressions, or design meaningful mathematical tasks. Those skills often become important when educators step into leadership opportunities, coaching roles, curriculum projects, or district initiatives.

If you're reading this profile, your biggest opportunity is not becoming a better teacher.

Your biggest opportunity is learning to think beyond the lesson.

Your Current Strengths

- ✓ Supporting students
- ✓ Delivering instruction
- ✓ Building relationships
- ✓ Creating classroom culture
- ✓ Facilitating learning experiences

Areas For Growth

- ✓ Understanding the intent behind standards
- ✓ Recognizing learning progressions
- ✓ Evaluating the rigor of tasks and lessons
- ✓ Designing meaningful assessments
- ✓ Connecting curriculum decisions to student outcomes

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE IS LEARNED.

Your Next Focus Area:

Begin studying curriculum the same way you've studied instruction.

Questions Subject Matter Experts Ask

- Why was this standard placed here?
- What prerequisite knowledge do students need?
- What evidence would prove mastery?
- What misconceptions might students develop?
- How does this connect to future grade levels?

The more frequently you ask those questions, the faster your expertise will grow.



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YOUR SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT PROFILE

EMERGING SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT

21-40 POINTS

You're Beginning To See Beyond The Lesson.

Based on your responses, you're beginning to develop the habits and thinking patterns subject matter experts use. You're likely asking questions about standards, curriculum, and student understanding that many educators never consider.

You may have participated in curriculum writing, served on a leadership team, facilitated professional learning, or examined standards more closely. You understand that strong instruction requires more than following a lesson plan. The challenge is consistency.

You may recognize important instructional decisions when they're pointed out, but not always identify them independently. You can often see the mathematics beneath a lesson, yet struggle to explain it clearly or use it to guide curriculum decisions.

Your biggest opportunity is learning to analyze curriculum with purpose.

Your Current Strengths

- ✓ Recognizing important standards
- ✓ Asking deeper instructional questions
- ✓ Identifying some student misconceptions
- ✓ Looking beyond surface-level lesson completion

Areas For Growth

- ✓ Connecting standards across grade levels
- ✓ Evaluating curriculum materials consistently
- ✓ Designing assessments aligned to standards
- ✓ Identifying all three aspects of rigor
- ✓ Using curriculum analysis to guide instructional decisions

**SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS LOOK BEYOND STUDENT PERFORMANCE TO
UNDERSTAND STUDENT THINKING.**

Your Next Focus Area:

Begin strengthening your curriculum analysis skills.

Questions Subject Matter Experts Ask

- What is the primary mathematical goal of this lesson?
- Which aspect of rigor is being developed?
- How does this lesson connect to previous learning?
- What evidence would demonstrate true understanding?
- What misconceptions should I anticipate before instruction begins?

The more intentionally you analyze curriculum, the more confidently you'll be able to design, evaluate, and improve it.



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DOPE MATH® Educators are born,
and systemic change begins.

YOUR SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT PROFILE

GROWING SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT

41-60 POINTS

You're Beginning To Influence The Learning Beyond Your Own Classroom.

Based on your responses, you've developed many of the foundational habits subject matter experts use. You regularly think about standards, curriculum, student understanding, and instructional decisions beyond daily lesson delivery.

You can identify the mathematical goals of a lesson, recognize misconceptions, and evaluate whether instructional materials align to standards. You understand that strong instruction requires intentional planning and thoughtful curriculum decisions. The next level of growth is depth.

While you can analyze curriculum and identify areas for improvement, you may not always feel confident defending those decisions, leading those conversations, or designing curriculum solutions from scratch.

Your biggest opportunity is learning to make curriculum decisions with confidence.

Your Current Strengths

- ✓ Analyzing standards for meaning and intent
- ✓ Recognizing student misconceptions
- ✓ Evaluating lesson alignment
- ✓ Understanding learning progressions
- ✓ Looking beyond lesson completion toward student understanding

Areas For Growth

- ✓ Designing high-quality mathematical tasks
- ✓ Creating standards-aligned assessments
- ✓ Balancing all three aspects of rigor
- ✓ Leading curriculum conversations with confidence
- ✓ Translating curriculum analysis into instructional action

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS TURN CURRICULUM ANALYSIS INTO MEANINGFUL INSTRUCTIONAL DECISIONS.

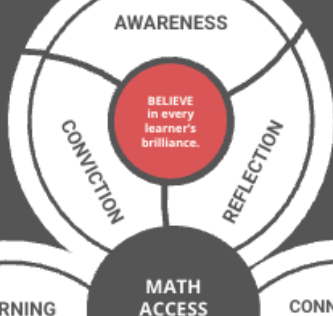
Your Next Focus Area:

Begin strengthening your curriculum design skills.

Questions Subject Matter Experts Ask

- What evidence would demonstrate true mastery?
- Does this task generate meaningful mathematical thinking?
- Which standards are being assessed and how do I know?
- Where might students struggle and what experiences will support them?
- How can this lesson better balance concepts, procedures, and application?

The more intentionally you design learning experiences, the more confidently you'll be able to influence instruction beyond your own classroom.



When belief, relevance, and expertise intersect —
DOPE MATH® Educators are born,
and systemic change begins.

YOUR SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT PROFILE

DEVELOPING SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT

61-80 POINTS

You're Becoming A Trusted Voice In Curriculum And Instruction.

Based on your responses, you've developed many of the habits subject matter experts use. You regularly think about standards, curriculum, student understanding, and instructional decisions beyond daily lesson delivery.

You can identify the mathematical goals of a lesson, recognize misconceptions, and evaluate whether instructional materials align to standards. You understand that strong instruction requires intentional planning and thoughtful curriculum decisions. The next level of growth is depth.

While you can analyze curriculum and identify areas for improvement, you may not always feel confident defending those decisions, leading those conversations, or designing curriculum solutions independently.

Your biggest opportunity is learning to lead curriculum work with clarity and influence.

Your Current Strengths

- ✓ Analyzing standards for meaning and intent
- ✓ Understanding learning progressions across grade levels
- ✓ Evaluating rigor within lessons and tasks
- ✓ Designing standards-aligned assessments
- Identifying opportunities for instructional improvement

Areas For Growth

- ✓ Leading curriculum conversations with greater confidence
- ✓ Building consensus around instructional decisions
- ✓ Coaching others through curriculum challenges
- ✓ Designing comprehensive curriculum resources
- Scaling your expertise across teams and systems

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS MULTIPLY THEIR IMPACT THROUGH OTHERS.

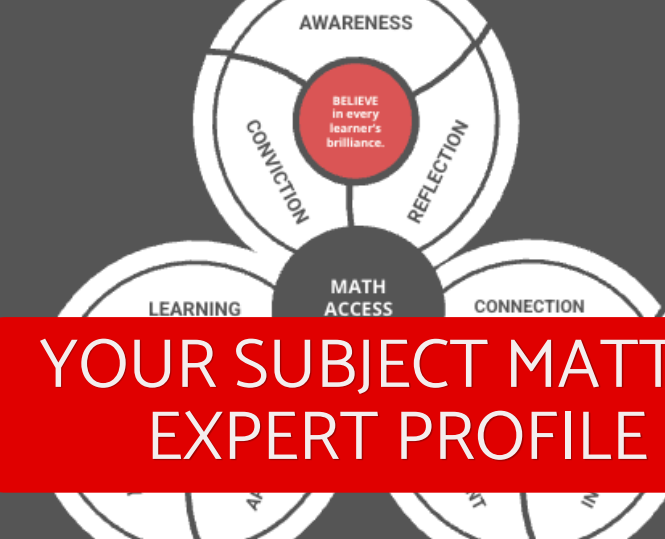
Your Next Focus Area:

Begin strengthening your curriculum leadership skills.

Questions Subject Matter Experts Ask

- How can I help others understand the intent behind this curriculum?
- What evidence suggests this instructional approach is working?
- How do I build buy-in around important curriculum decisions?
- What support do educators need to implement this effectively?
- How can we create greater coherence across classrooms and grade levels?

The more intentionally you develop others, the greater your impact on student learning becomes.



When belief, relevance, and expertise intersect —
DOPE MATH® Educators are born,
and systemic change begins.

YOUR SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT PROFILE

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT

81-100 POINTS

You're Thinking Beyond Classrooms, Teams, And Programs.

Based on your responses, you've developed a high level of subject matter expertise. You understand standards, rigor, curriculum design, assessment, and instructional decision-making at a systems level.

You can identify patterns, opportunities, and challenges across classrooms, grade levels, teams, and curriculum resources. Others likely seek your expertise when making important instructional and curriculum decisions. The next level of growth is legacy.

Your expertise no longer creates the greatest impact through your own work alone. Your greatest opportunity is helping build systems, structures, and people that continue creating impact long after you're no longer in the room.

Your biggest opportunity is learning to scale your expertise beyond yourself.

Your Current Strengths

- ✓ Understanding curriculum as a coherent system
- ✓ Evaluating standards, rigor, and assessment alignment
- ✓ Leading curriculum and instructional conversations
- ✓ Influencing decisions that impact multiple educators

Areas For Growth

- ✓ Developing curriculum leaders
- ✓ Building sustainable instructional systems
- ✓ Designing professional learning experiences
- ✓ Creating scalable curriculum resources
- ✓ Expanding your influence beyond a single school or team

**SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS DEVELOP PEOPLE, SYSTEMS,
AND STRUCTURES THAT CREATE LASTING IMPACT.**

Your Next Focus Area:

Begin strengthening your systems leadership skills.

Questions Systems Thinkers Ask

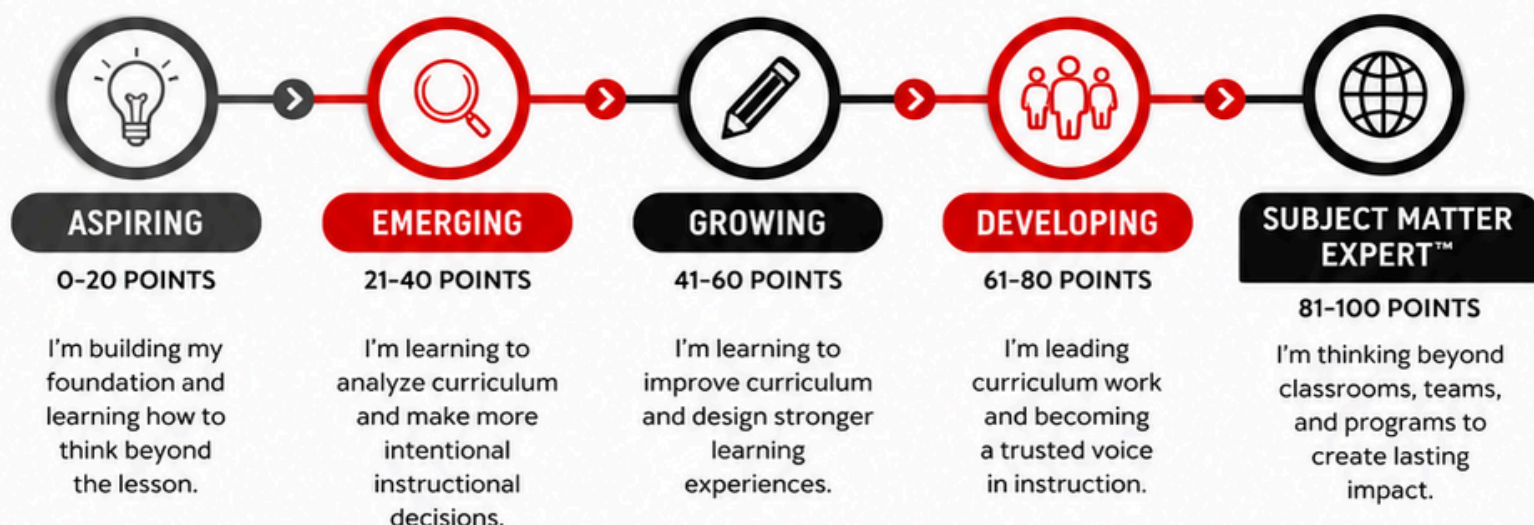
- How do our curriculum decisions impact learning across grade levels?
- What systems need to exist for high-quality instruction to thrive?
- How can we create consistency without sacrificing teacher expertise?
- Who am I developing to carry this work forward?
- What structures will continue creating impact when I'm no longer leading them?

The most effective subject matter experts understand that influence is not measured by how much work they can do themselves. It is measured by the systems, structures, and people they develop.

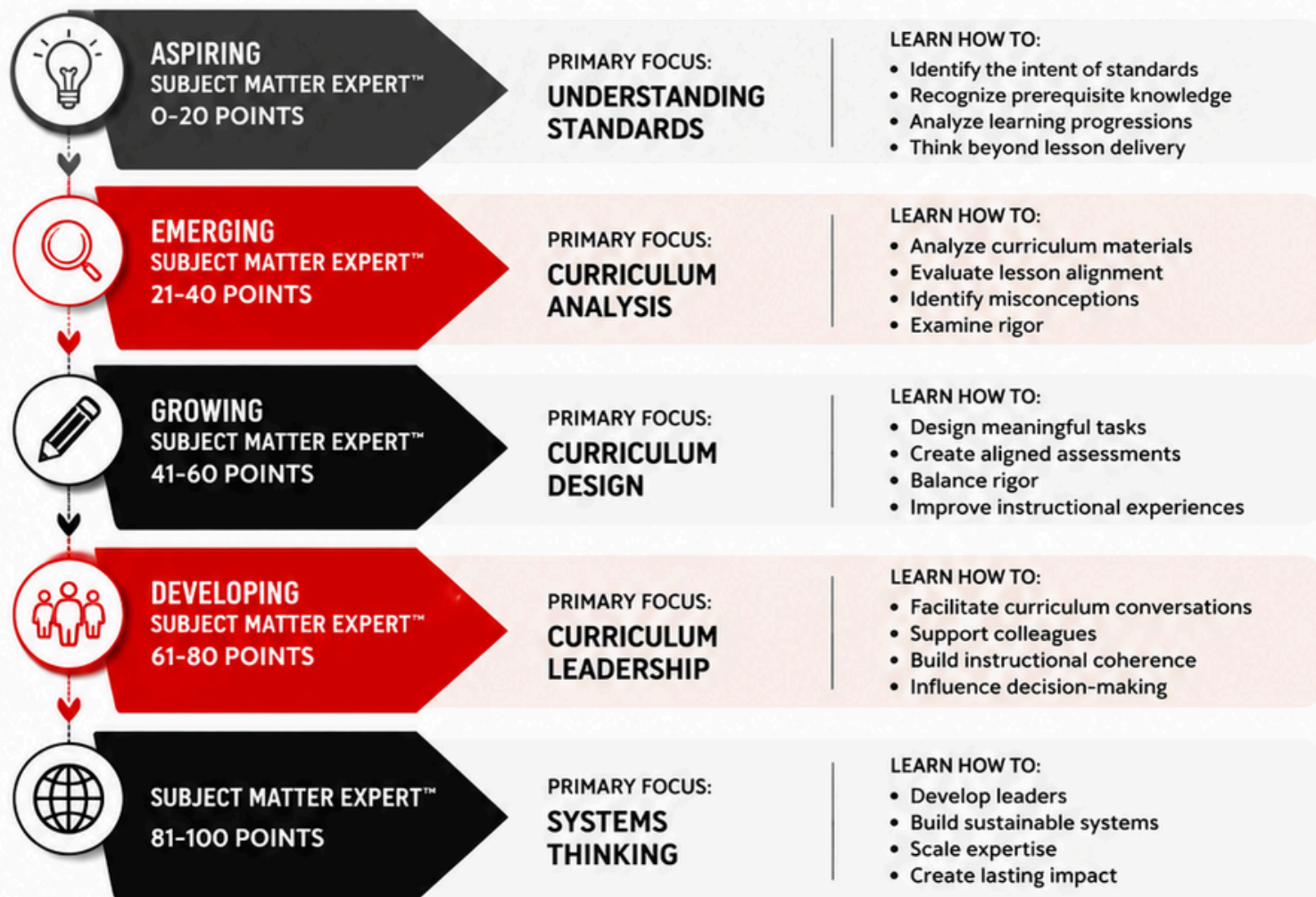
YOUR SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT™ GROWTH ROADMAP

Every subject matter expert starts somewhere.

The goal is not to move through these levels quickly. The goal is to develop intentionally.



YOUR ROADMAP: FOCUS AND GROWTH AT EVERY LEVEL



No matter where you scored, your next step is the same:
CONTINUE DEVELOPING THE SKILLS THAT HELP YOU THINK BEYOND THE LESSON AND INTO THE SYSTEMS THAT SHAPE STUDENT LEARNING.

WHAT COMES NEXT:



TURNING YOUR NEXT LEVEL OF
GROWTH INTO ACTION.

THE NEXT STEP IN YOUR SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE JOURNEY

THINK LIKE A
SUBJECT
MATTER
EXPERT™

You now know where you are.
You've identified your strengths.
You've uncovered your growth opportunities.

The question is no longer whether you're capable
of becoming a stronger subject matter expert.

**The question is whether you'll develop
those skills intentionally.**

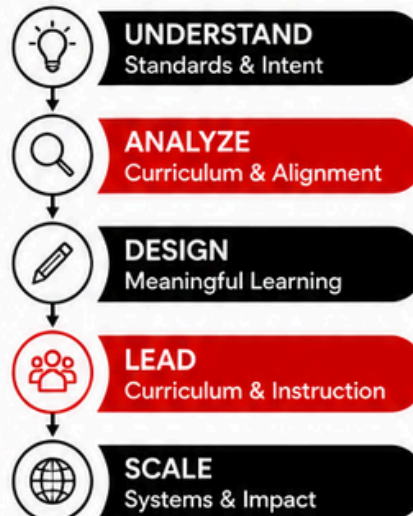
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I CREATED THE

DOPE MATH® CURRICULUM WRITING INTENSIVE

IN THIS INTENSIVE, YOU WILL:

-  Break down math standards and build a structured **Scope & Sequence**.
-  Design curriculum that **aligns** with district, state, and publishing expectations.
-  Leverage **AI, digital tools**, and **instructional** strategies to strengthen curriculum design.
-  Create a professional curriculum writing **portfolio** that showcases your expertise.
-  Position yourself for curriculum writing opportunities, **leadership roles**, and promotions.
-  Develop the subject matter expertise needed to **influence** curriculum, instruction, and student learning.

A PATHWAY TO YOUR NEXT LEVEL



*The same progression you just explored
throughout this guide.*

**“ The most effective subject
matter experts are
developed intentionally.”**



Intentional growth
leads to
intentional impact.



READY TO CONTINUE YOUR GROWTH?

Scan the QR code to learn more about the
DOPE MATH® Curriculum Writing Intensive
and save your spot today!



LEARN MORE

You assessed your expertise.

Now it's time to develop it.

THINK **DEEPER**. DESIGN **BETTER**. LEAD **BOLDLY**. CREATE LASTING **IMPACT**.

Hi. I'm Jaliyla!



I'm the Founder of Fraser's Mathematics Solutions and creator of the DOPE MATH® Educator Movement. I help educators strengthen instruction, build subject matter expertise, design meaningful curriculum, and create lasting impact for students.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this guide. I hope it challenged your thinking, affirmed your strengths, and helped you identify your next area of growth.

Let's Connect



www.dopematheducator.com

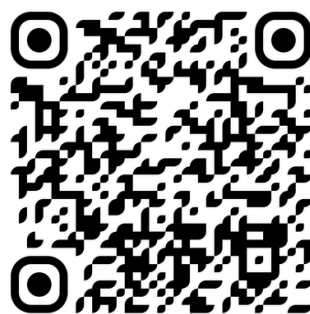


[dope_math_educator](https://www.instagram.com/dope_math_educator)



[Jaliyla Fraser](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jaliylafraser)

Ready to continue your growth?



DOPE MATH®
Curriculum Writing Intensive