The Rice University School Mathematics Project (RUSMP) has developed a comprehensive protocol to assess the effectiveness of school and district mathematics programs and is using it to help schools assess and improve their mathematics programs.

The protocol gives RUSMP the opportunity to develop a detailed picture of the mathematics program in a school or district through a four-phase process.

The four phases include:

- interviews with administrators,
- interviews with teachers without administrators present,
- full-period observations of mathematics classes, and
- observations of department or grade-level meetings.

RUSMP is looking for alignment among the four in the "right" direction—a direction that truly supports student learning. From the extensive data gathered, the school or district then receives a report of the findings, an assessment of the quality of the mathematics program, and recommendations for improvement.

"The entire process with the Rice University Mathematics Program Evaluation Protocol was seamless. The results of the time spent by RUSMP staff produced a very specific needs assessment in math for our district."

Debora Bartosh, Director of Student Services, Bartlett ISD

"Our instructional decisions in mathematics have been guided by the valuable information that we gained through the assessment process. RUSMP continues to support our mathematics department through high-quality professional development."

Mable Holt, Principal, Shotwell MS, Aldine ISD

The RUSMP evaluation protocol was showcased at the Texas School Improvement Conference in Austin in the fall of 2009 and has gained the attention of school districts across Texas.

School Districts Served:
- Aldine ISD
- Bartlett ISD
- Galveston ISD
- Houston ISD
- La Marque ISD
- Pasadena ISD
- Spring ISD
- Weslaco ISD
- Wharton ISD