

# 3 Easy Steps

FOR DESIGNING YOUR DREAMBOX MATH CHALLENGE



DreamBox Math Challenges are a fun way to help students get the most benefit from weekly DreamBox usage while also celebrating along the way. To host a Math Challenge in your classroom, school, or district, here are some best practices to help students grow in their learning, confidence, and enjoyment of math.

**1 YOUR MATH CHALLENGE SHOULD LAST ABOUT FOUR WEEKS.**  
Consistency of DreamBox usage over several weeks helps students learn and grow.

**2 DRAW THE MATH CHALLENGE WINNER AT RANDOM FROM STUDENTS WHO MEET THEIR WEEKLY DREAMBOX GOALS.**  
Over the course of a four-week math challenge, every student therefore has the opportunity to be entered into the drawing up to four times. In addition to a grand prize drawing at the end of the Math Challenge, you could do weekly drawings for smaller prizes.

**3 AT THE END OF EACH WEEK, ENTER STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE FIVE LESSONS INTO THE DRAWING.**  
See the screenshots below for how to track this number.

## FAQ

### 1. How do I track weekly lessons?

The screenshot shows the 'Dreambox Student Usage' report for Jennifer Smith's Math Block 4 classroom in October 2020. The report includes overall classroom metrics and a table of student usage stats. The 'Total Lessons' column is highlighted with an orange box.

Name	Grade	Avg Min/Wk	Total Time	Avg Lessons/Wk	Total Lessons	Logging In
Akerman, Jeffrey	1	1 hr 45 min	3 hr 16 min	12.9 lessons	24	✓
Amith, Dedra	1	1 hr 7 min	2 hr 4 min	0.0 lessons	0	✓
Chadd, Kathryn	1	43 min	1 hr 19 min	0.5 lessons	1	✓
Click, Lesonye	1	1 hr 43 min	3 hr 12 min	22.6 lessons	42	✓
Denegrie, Kendra	1	1 hr 37 min	3 hr	9.7 lessons	18	✓
Durch, Domenic	1	1 hr 32 min	2 hr 51 min	2.7 lessons	5	✓
Feeling, Millicent	1	1 hr 19 min	2 hr 27 min	8.1 lessons	15	✓
Fontana, Clarinda	1	1 hr 12 min	2 hr 15 min	4.3 lessons	8	✓
Friberg, Natasha	1	1 hr 42 min	3 hr 10 min	2.2 lessons	4	✓
Grana, Kourtney	1	59 min	1 hr 50 min	2.2 lessons	4	✓

To track students' lessons, navigate to the Reports tab in the Insight Dashboard. Then, filter down to the class you want to see (this can also be done later once the report is open). Open the Student Usage Report link to find the report. Make sure the date range is for the month you want to see. If you used the filters to view your classroom, the report should show the right data. You can see a general overview for the month in the first table. Scroll down to see a weekly breakdown of each student's progress.

You'll easily track your student progress with this report. Remember, students are eligible to be entered for the weekly prize if they complete five or more lessons in that week.

## 2. Must the Math Challenge last exactly four weeks?

Not necessarily. However, we recommend no fewer than three weeks because consistency over several weeks is important. Using the parameters above, your math challenge could last six weeks, a trimester, or the school year.

## 3. Why use a drawing instead of awarding the student with the most lessons completed?

Everyone deserves an equal and fair opportunity to win. Not all students have the same levels of access to DreamBox outside of school, which means some students with more access at home could complete more lessons. In addition, not all students are motivated by a Math Challenge or competition, especially those who don't feel capable or confident in math. If you award the student with the most lessons completed, many students will assume they can't win. With this design of weekly entries for a drawing, each student will know that they have an equal opportunity to win if they reach their lesson goals during the week.

## 4. Why use the lessons completed metric instead of minutes in lessons?

What gets measured and celebrated is what gets valued. Research and case studies indicate that when students complete the recommended minimum of five lessons per week, their growth on external tests is between 50%-100% higher than for students who complete an average of fewer than five lessons per week. For students to complete at least five lessons each week, ensure they have access to DreamBox for 30-60 minutes, ideally in two 30-minute sessions.

## 5. If a student completes 10 lessons/week, will they be entered into the drawing twice?

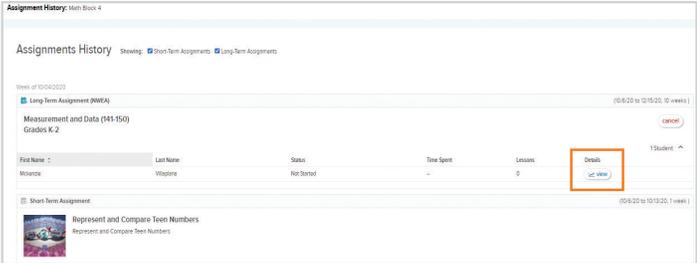
Beyond a certain point, completing too many lessons each week begins to show diminishing returns. And a Math Challenge shouldn't incentivize students to engage in "binge learning." It typically doesn't benefit students, except in certain unique circumstances, such as when students complete DreamBox lessons at least two grade levels below their assigned grade level.

## 6. Why wouldn't we count Assignments lessons?

As a result of DreamBox's real-time differentiation and adaptivity, independent research and case studies have shown significant gains for students completing lessons recommended by DreamBox without use of the Assignments feature. If you wish to count Assignments lessons during a math challenge, we recommend counting no more than five of those lessons for the duration of the Math Challenge.

## 7. How do I exclude Assignments lessons in the weekly count?

If you believe students have completed Assignments lessons during the week and wish to exclude them, visit the Assignments History section in the Insight Dashboard, this is where you can find the count of Assignments lessons completed.



First Name	Last Name	Status	Time Spent	Lessons	Details
Melchior	Winters	Not Started	--	0	Details
Short Term Assignment					
Represent and Compare Teen Numbers					

## 8. Can I tell if a student intentionally fails lessons to meet the five lessons per week goal?

Because this Math Challenge doesn't reward students for completing the most lessons, it's unlikely students will intentionally fail lessons simply to increase their lesson count. However, there are two ways to investigate whether a student is intentionally failing lessons. The first is to check the student's Activity feed. Each lesson that is failed will have an orange indicator. The second method is to look at how much time students spend in DreamBox lessons. DreamBox lessons typically range in length from five minutes to 12 minutes depending on the student, math concept, and type of lessons completed. If you find students are completing lessons in three minutes or less, it's an indicator that they might not be putting in their full effort.

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