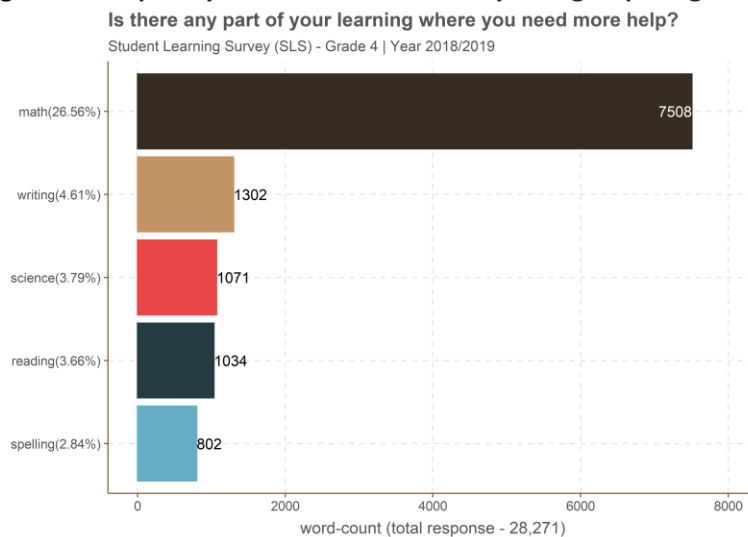




In what area of learning do students need more help?

A question in the Student Learning Survey (SLS) asks students “Is there any part of your education where you need more help?” This is an open-ended question in which students type-in their response. Figure 1 shows the results of a text analysis of 28,271 Grade 4 student-responses to this question in school year 2018-2019 for both public and independent schools.

Figure 1: Frequency of Grade 4 students reporting requiring help



About 27% of the Grade 4 respondents reported they need more help in math in school year 2018-2019.

32% of female Grade 4 students who answered this question reported they require more help in math, compared to 20% of male Grade 4 students. Also, 30% of indigenous respondents reported

they need more help in math, compared to 26% non-indigenous respondents. No significant difference was found between ESL (27%) and non-ESL (26%) Grade 4 students in this regard.

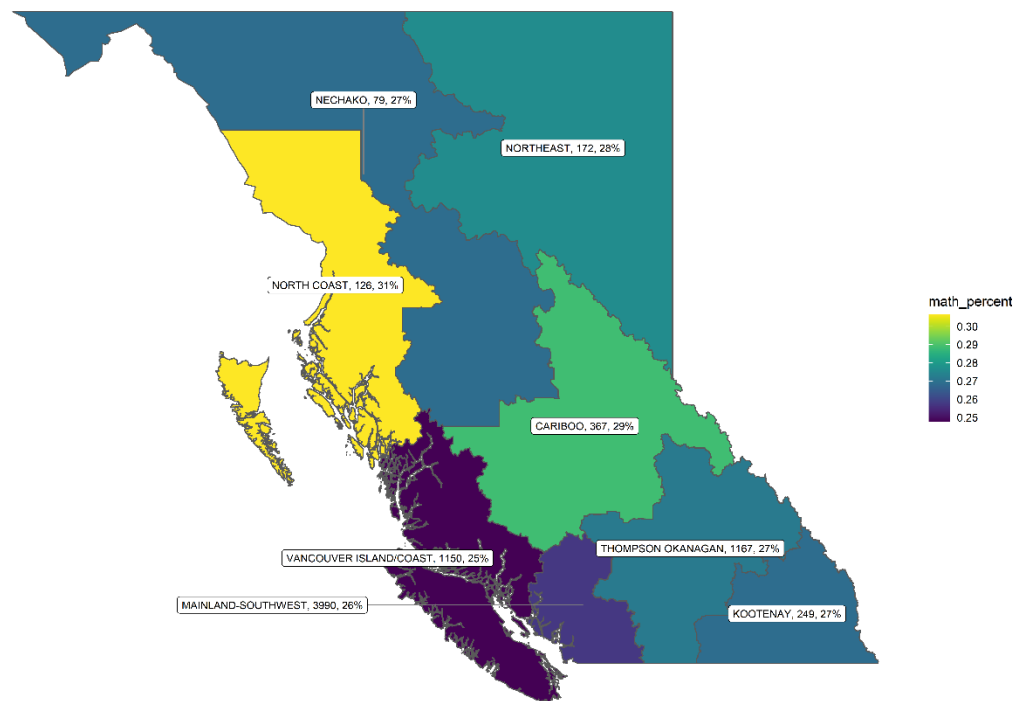
Our analysis also reveals that within a school district, higher socioeconomic neighbourhoods are associated with lower proportions of Grade 4 students reporting that they need help with math. Math also retains its position as the most reported learning-area requiring more help in grades 7, 10, and 12.

Figure 2 shows percentage of Grade 4 respondents that reported they require more help in math by economic region.



Figure 2 – Percentage of Grade 4 students requiring more help in math by Region

Number and % of Grade 4 student learning survey respondents that report needing more help in math by BC Economic Region



What do students do when they don't understand something at school?

To investigate student-behavior when they don't understand something or get stuck, responses to another SLS question which ask Grade 4 students **“What do you do when you don't understand something at school?”** were also investigated.

Text analysis reveals most Grade 4 students reported seeking help from teachers/adults/parents (~71%), or peers (~17%). Only about 0.06% of Grade-4 students reported that they seek help from online sources in school year 2018-2019. Contrasting this with the 27% figure of Grade 4 students reporting they need help in math, represents an opportunity, as there are free, accessible self-paced learning materials available online that covers the entire standard K-12 curriculum.