

Math for America (MfA) was founded in 2004 with a mission to improve math education in our nation.

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.fractals/2007-02/msg00002.html>

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<http://www.mathforamerica.org/htdocs/template.php?section=apply&content=overview>

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Billionaire Aims To Solve A Math Problem

Math For America Pays Students To Get Master's Degree And Boosts Their Salaries If They Teach Math

Feb. 7, 2007

Quote

"We have an economy that's dependent on technology, and we don't have a domestic workforce who's prepared."

Jim Simons

(CBS) Can America compete with China and India when fewer and fewer of our students graduate with math, science and engineering degrees? Jim Simons sure doesn't think so and if he's worried about it, you probably should be, too, CBS Evening News anchor Katie Couric reports.

"We have an economy that's dependent on technology, and we don't have a domestic workforce who's prepared," Simons says. "Fewer and fewer people who know math and science, teach math and science."

Simons likes his job as head of a hedge fund called Renaissance Technologies. The world-renowned mathematician-turned-college-professor-turned-billionaire businessman is still passionate about numbers.

To pass the time, Simons has been working on a math problem over the past couple of years.

"It takes a couple of years to solve a good problem," he says.

If he hasn't figured out how to solve that problem, he does think he's got the equation for getting more math teachers into New York City public schools: Find college graduates who love math, pay for them to get their master's degrees and in addition to their regular salaries, pay them as much as \$20,000 more a year.

"We don't want volunteers. We want people who will be committed to be a professional in this field and stay there," Simons says. "A \$20,000 bump is not all that much money but on the other hand, it's meaningful, and it makes people feel recognized."

Simons' organization is called Math For America and he put up almost \$50 million of his own money to start

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Math for America (MfA) was founded in 2004 with a mission to improve math education in our nation. it back in 2004. The goal is to get 400 highly qualified math teachers in the classroom by 2009.

"I've made a lot of money and had a very in