

CVUSD

Board Policy

BP 6152.1

Placement in Mathematics Courses

Instruction

***Note: The Governing Board of any district which serves 9th-grade students and has not adopted a mathematics placement policy is mandated pursuant to Education Code 51224.7, as added by SB 359 (Ch. 508, Statutes of 2015), to develop and, at a regularly scheduled public Board meeting, adopt a fair, objective, and transparent mathematics placement policy with specified components, before the 2016-17 school year. Even a district with an adopted mathematics placement policy must ensure that its policy includes components specified in Education Code 51224.7. Districts serving students that are transitioning between elementary and middle or junior high school are authorized, but not required, to adopt and implement a policy that satisfies the components specified in Education Code 51224.7. ***

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 51225.3, high school graduation requirements include the completion of at least two mathematics courses in grades 9-12. Pursuant to Education Code 51224.5, as amended by AB 220 (Ch. 165, Statutes of 2015), one of those two courses must meet or exceed state content standards for Algebra I or Mathematics I. While the completion of Algebra I or Mathematics I coursework prior to 9th grade would satisfy this requirement, it does not exempt a student from the requirement to complete two mathematics courses in grades 9-12. See BP 6142.92 - Mathematics Instruction and BP 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements. ***

The Governing Board believes that a sound educational program must include the study of subjects that prepare students for admission to higher education and/or a fulfilling career. To the extent possible, district students shall be provided an opportunity to complete a sequence of mathematics courses recommended for admission into the University of California and California State University systems.

The Superintendent or designee shall work with district teachers, counselors, and administrators and the representatives of feeder schools to develop consistent protocols for placing grade 9 students in mathematics courses offered at district high schools. Such placement protocols shall also guide student placement through the high school math pathway progression and shall systematically take into consideration multiple objective academic measures that may include, but are not limited to, interim and summative assessments, placement tests that are aligned to state-adopted content standards in mathematics, classroom assignment and grades, and report cards.

Students shall be enrolled in mathematics courses based on the placement protocols. No student shall repeat a mathematics course which he/she has successfully completed based on the district's placement protocols.

When a student does not qualify to be enrolled in a higher level mathematics course based on a consideration of the objective measures specified in the placement protocols, he/she may nevertheless petition to be admitted to the course based on the recommendation of a teacher or counselor who has personal knowledge of the student's mathematical academic ability. Upon review of the petition, the principal or designee may honor the placement request and admit the student to the course.

The placement protocols shall specify a time within the first month of the school year when students shall be reevaluated to ensure that they are appropriately placed in mathematics courses and shall specify the criteria the district will use to make this determination. Any student found to be misplaced shall be counseled into the appropriate mathematics course.

Within 10 school days of an initial placement decision or a placement decision upon reevaluation, a student and his/her parent/guardian who disagrees with the placement of the student may appeal the decision in writing to the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee shall determine if proper protocols were followed and whether or not to overrule the placement decision within 10 school days of receiving the appeal. The decision of the Superintendent or designee shall be final.

District staff shall implement the placement protocols uniformly and without regard to students' race, sex, gender, nationality, ethnicity, socioeconomic background, or other subjective or discriminatory consideration in making placement decisions.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all teachers, counselors, and other district staff responsible for determining students' placement in mathematics courses receive training/communication on the placement protocols.

Prior to the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designee shall communicate the district's commitment to providing students with the opportunity to complete mathematics courses recommended for college admission, including approved placement protocols and the appeal process, to parents/guardians, students, teachers, school counselors, and administrators.

This policy and the district's mathematics placement protocols shall be posted on the district's web site. (Education Code 51224.7)

Annually, the Board and the Superintendent or designee shall review student data related to placement and advancement in the mathematics courses offered at district high schools to ensure that students who are qualified to progress in mathematics courses based on their performance on objective academic measures are not held back in a disproportionate manner on the basis of their race, ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic background. The Board and Superintendent shall also consider appropriate recommendations for removing any identified barriers to students' access to mathematics courses.

Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination

48070.5 Promotion and retention; required policy
51220 Areas of study, grades 7-12
51224.5 Completion of Algebra I or Mathematics I
51224.7 California Mathematics Placement Act of 2015
51225.3 High school graduation requirements
51284 Financial literacy
60605 State-adopted content and performance standards in core curricular areas
60605.8 Common Core standards

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Math Misplacement, Governance Brief, September 2015

Governing to the Core, Governance Briefs

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Mathematics Framework for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve, 2013

California Common Core State Standards: Mathematics, January 2013

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS INITIATIVE PUBLICATIONS

Appendix A: Designing High School Mathematics Courses Based on the Common Core State Standards

LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA (LCCR)

Held Back - Addressing Misplacement of 9th Grade Students in Bay Area School Math Classes

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

Common Core State Standards Initiative: <http://www.corestandards.org/math>

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area (LCCR):
<http://www.lccr.com>