

Board Policy

Placement In Mathematics Courses

BP 6152.1

Instruction

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.

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

The Superintendent or designee shall work with district teachers, counselors, and administrators to develop consistent protocols for placing students in mathematics courses offered at district schools. Such placement protocols shall systematically take into consideration multiple objective academic measures that may include, but are not limited to, interim and summative assessments and placement tests that are aligned to state-adopted content standards in mathematics, grades, and report cards.

(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

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 be admitted to the course based on the recommendation of staff who have personal knowledge of the student's academic ability.

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 placed in 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 disagree with the placement of the student may appeal the decision to the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee shall decide whether or not to overrule the placement determination within 10 school days of receiving the appeal. The decision of the Superintendent or designee shall be final.

(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)

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.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

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

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

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 appropriate mathematics pathways 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)

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)

Annually, the Board and the Superintendent or designee shall review aggregate student data related to placement and advancement in the mathematics courses offered 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>