

# CSBA Sample

## Board Policy

### Instruction

BP 6152.1(a)

### PLACEMENT IN MATHEMATICS COURSES

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 51224.7, the Governing Board of a district which serves 9th-grade students is **mandated** to develop and, at a regularly scheduled public Board meeting, adopt a fair, objective, and transparent mathematics placement policy with specified components. Although not required, districts serving students who are transitioning between elementary and middle or junior high schools are encouraged to adopt and implement policy to address the transition from elementary to secondary mathematics courses.

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, 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.

According to a report by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of San Francisco Bay Area, Held Back: Addressing Misplacement of 9th Grade Students in Bay Area School Math Classes, many districts place students who have successfully completed Algebra I in 8th grade into Algebra I class again in 9th grade. In adding Education Code 51224.7, the legislature declared that placement in appropriate mathematics courses is critically important for a student in his/her middle and high school years, and that misplacement in the sequence of mathematics courses creates barriers for educational success, especially for students of color.

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 fulfilling careers. 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.

(cf. 6141.5 - Advanced Placement)

(cf. 6142.92 - Mathematics Instruction)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

Note: The following paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. For nonunified districts, Education Code 51224.7 **mandates** that the policy address the consistency of mathematics placement policies between elementary and high school districts.

The Superintendent or designee shall work with district teachers, counselors, and administrators and the representatives of feeder schools to develop a well-articulated sequence of mathematics courses and consistent protocols for placing students in mathematics courses offered at district high schools.

Note: Education Code 51224.7 **mandates** that the district's policy include the following statement. Also see the accompanying administrative regulation for further information regarding placement protocols.

**PLACEMENT IN MATHEMATICS COURSES** (continued)

Such placement protocols shall systematically take into consideration multiple objective academic measures that may include, but are not limited to, statewide mathematics assessments, including state interim and summative assessments; placement tests that are aligned to state-adopted content standards in mathematics; classroom assignment and grades; and report cards. (Education Code 51224.7)

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

(cf. 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)

Note: The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of San Francisco Bay Area's report, Held Back: Addressing Misplacement of 9th Grade Students in Bay Area School Math Classes, found that the practice of having 9th-grade students repeat Algebra I disproportionately affects students of color and from low-income families, and could therefore be found to be discriminatory. For more information about the prohibition against discrimination in district programs and activities, see BP 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities.

District staff shall implement the placement protocols uniformly and without regard to students' socioeconomic background or any characteristic specified in BP 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities, including, but not limited to, race, sex, gender, nationality, and ethnicity.

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

(cf. 0415 - Equity)

(cf. 6174 - Education for English Learners)

Note: Education Code 51224.7 **mandates** that the district's policy include at least one placement checkpoint within the first month of the school year to ensure accurate placement and permit reevaluation of individual student progress.

The placement protocols shall provide for at least one reevaluation within the first month of the school year to ensure that students 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 promptly placed in the appropriate mathematics course.

Note: Education Code 51224.7 **mandates** that the district's policy offer a clear and timely recourse for any student and his/her parent/guardian who question the student's placement. See the accompanying administrative regulation for additional language implementing this requirement.

If a student or parent/guardian questions the student's placement, he/she may appeal the decision to the Superintendent or designee. The decision of the Superintendent or designee shall be final.

## PLACEMENT IN MATHEMATICS COURSES (continued)

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)

Note: To ensure that students who are qualified to progress in mathematics courses based on their performance on district-selected objective academic measures are not unlawfully or inappropriately held back, Education Code 51224.7 **mandates** that the policy include a requirement for an annual examination of aggregate student placement data which must be reported to the Board. In addition, pursuant to Education Code 52060, districts must annually review their progress toward the student achievement goals in their local control and accountability plan using measures that include, as applicable, the percentage of students who have successfully completed courses that satisfy the requirements for entrance to the University of California and the California State University.

The Board and the Superintendent or designee shall annually review student data related to placement in 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 being held back in a disproportionate manner on the basis of any subjective or discriminatory basis, and shall develop strategies for removing any identified barriers to students' access to mathematics courses. The Superintendent or designee shall also report on the percentage of district students who have successfully completed mathematics courses that satisfy the requirements for entrance to the University of California and the California State University.

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

## PLACEMENT IN MATHEMATICS COURSES (continued)

### *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

52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan

60605 State-adopted content and performance standards in core curricular areas

60605.8 Common Core standards

60640-60649 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress

### *Management Resources:*

#### CSBA PUBLICATIONS

*Math Misplacement, Governance Brief, September 2015*

#### 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, 2013*

#### 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>

Northwest Evaluation Association, Measures of Academic Progress: <http://www.nwea.org>

University of California, Mathematics Diagnostic Testing Project: <http://mdtp.ucsd.edu>

# CSBA Sample

## Administrative Regulation

Instruction

AR 6152.1(a)

### PLACEMENT IN MATHEMATICS COURSES

#### Placement Protocols

Note: Education Code 51224.7 **mandates** that any district that serves 9th-grade students adopt protocols for student placement in mathematics courses based on multiple objective academic measures, such as statewide assessments, including interim and summative assessments; placement tests that are aligned to state-adopted content standards in mathematics; classroom assignment and grades; and report cards. Districts that serve students transitioning from elementary to middle or junior high school may also adopt a placement protocol based on similar measures. The following section should be revised to reflect the grade levels at which the placement protocols will be applied, specific tests and other measures used for placement purposes, and the performance level on each assessment or minimum grade that will be used to determine a student's readiness for specific mathematics courses.

In determining student placement in mathematics courses for students entering grade 9, the Superintendent or designee shall assess whether each student has the prerequisite skills for success in the course and consider student and parent/guardian requests. Such determinations shall be based on multiple measures, including, but not limited to, the following:

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 60640, mathematics assessments in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress are administered at grades 3-8 and 11.

1. Interim and summative grade 8 mathematics assessments from the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress
2. For students with disabilities, an alternate test or other measures when designated in a student's individualized education program (IEP)
3. Other assessments such as Measures of Academic Progress, the readiness tests of the University of California's Mathematics Diagnosis Testing Project, and/or district benchmark assessments
4. The student's grades in his/her previous mathematics course
5. The final mathematics grade on the end-of-year report card

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

(cf. 6142.92 - Mathematics Instruction)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

(cf. 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)

## **PLACEMENT IN MATHEMATICS COURSES (continued)**

Individual student performance data shall be analyzed each spring prior to scheduling and placing students into secondary mathematics courses. Students and parents/guardians shall be notified in writing by the end of the school year as to the mathematics course in which the student has been placed.

No student shall be required to repeat a mathematics course which he/she has successfully completed in accordance with district's placement protocols.

Note: Recommendations by teachers or counselors are generally considered subjective and therefore do not meet the requirement of Education Code 51224.7 that placement in mathematics courses be based on objective measures. The following **optional** paragraph authorizes staff recommendations to be considered when placing a student in a higher level mathematics course than he/she would be assigned based on the district's protocol, but such recommendations should not be the sole basis for placing a student in a lower level class.

When a student does not qualify to be enrolled in a particular mathematics course based on a consideration of the objective measures specified in the placement protocol, he/she may nevertheless be admitted to the course based on the recommendation of a teacher or counselor who has personal knowledge of the student's academic ability.

Students who exhibit deficits in knowledge and skills needed to advance to a higher level mathematics course may receive supplemental instruction to improve achievement of mathematic content standards.

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)

### **Reevaluation**

Within the first month of the school year, mathematics course placements shall be individually reevaluated to ensure placement in the most rigorous mathematics course for which the student has the potential for success.

Criteria for reevaluating each student's placement shall include, but are not limited to, course preassessment results, attendance, and student performance in the first month of the school year as determined by teacher observation and grades on assignments and tests. Student and parent/guardian request for course placement may also be considered.

### **Notification of Placement Protocol**

The district's policy and protocols related to student placement in mathematics courses shall be posted on the district's web site. (Education Code 51224.7)

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)

**PLACEMENT IN MATHEMATICS COURSES (continued)**

The Superintendent or designee shall also make the district's placement policy, protocols, and course sequence readily accessible to students, parents/guardians, and staff at school sites and/or in student handbooks.

**Appeals**

Note: Education Code 51224.7 **mandates** that the district's policy or protocol offer a clear and timely recourse for any student and parent/guardian who question the student's placement. See the accompanying Board policy. The following paragraph contains timelines that may be revised to reflect district practice.

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 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.