



Middle School Math Course Placement Recommendations Spring 2018

These guidelines serve as a **recommendation** for student placement in middle school math classes. Decisions regarding student placement may require the consideration of various other factors.

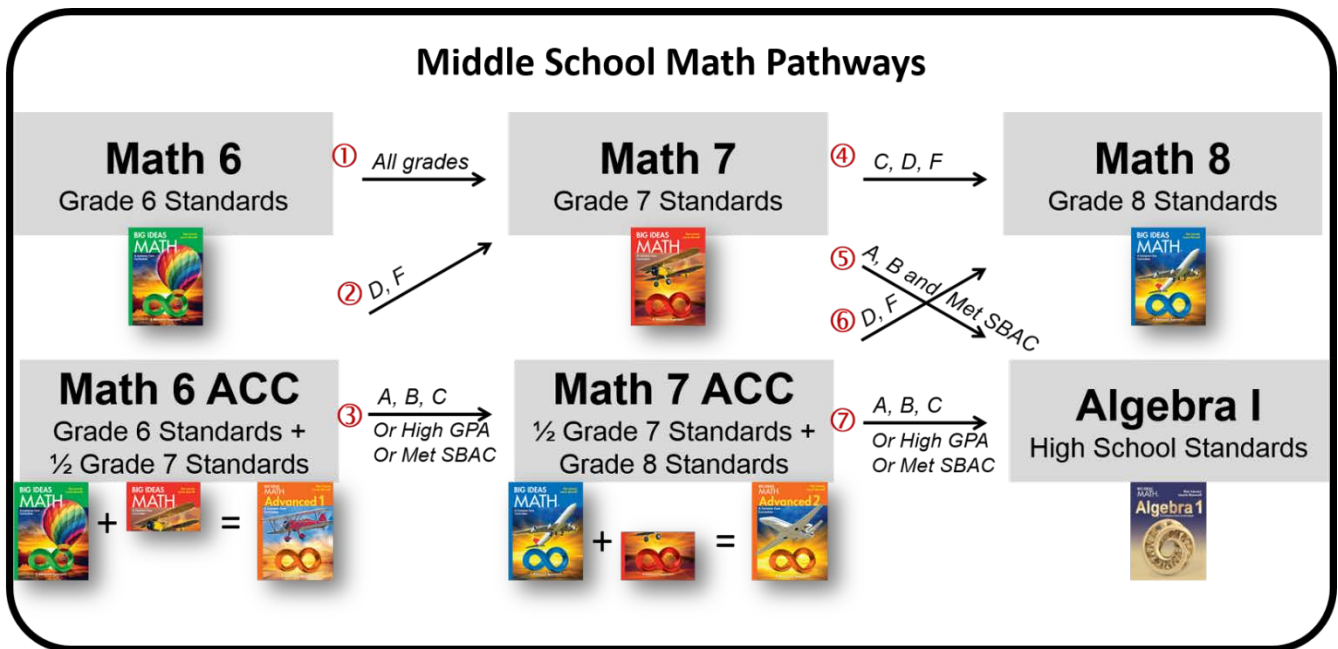
Placement into 6th Grade Math

Students who meet at least one of the following criteria should be placed in Math 6 Accelerated.

- GATE/Excel identified students
- Met or Exceeded standard on the Grade 4 math SBAC
- Met or Exceeded standard on the Grade 5 math SBAC
- All core subject scores 3 or 4 on the 5th grade achievement report

Math Placement within Grades 6-8

In the diagram below, the arrows indicate the suggested criteria for placement into each course. Each arrow is numbered and described below.



1. Students in Math 6 with any grade in the course should be placed into Math 7.

Why shouldn't a high achieving student in Math 6 take Math 7 ACC the following year?

The Math 6 course addresses all of the 6th grade California Standards.

The Math 6 Accelerated course addresses all of the 6th grade standards and about one-half of the 7th grade standards. The 7th grade standards addressed in Math 6 ACC are not taught in Math 7 Accelerated. A student should not take Math 6 in the 6th grade and then Math 7 ACC in the 7th grade because the students would not learn the omitted 7th grade content.

2. Students in Math 6 ACC with a D or F with a GPA less than 3.0 who have *not met* standard on SBAC should be placed into Math 7.

3. Students in Math 6 ACC with an A, B, or C or with a GPA 3.0 or greater or who have *met standard* on SBAC should be placed into Math 7 ACC.

Why should a student struggling in Math 6 ACC take Math 7 the following year?

The accelerated course sequence of Math 6 ACC and Math 7 ACC compacts the 6th, 7th and 8th grade standards into a two-year course sequence. In these fast-paced courses, students are required to master the content with fluency, depth of understanding, and the ability to apply the mathematics to never-before-seen problems. The non-accelerated sequence also requires students to master the content with fluency, depth of understanding and problem solving skills, but provides more time for students to develop their understanding of each unit of study. The Math 7 course will prepare students for Math 8, a course which is as rigorous and demanding as the previous Algebra course taught in 8th grade in LBUSD.

4. Students in Math 7 with a C, D, or F should be placed into Math 8.
5. Students in Math 7 with an A or B **and** have *met standard* on SBAC should be placed into Algebra 1.

Why are only “A” and “B” students from Math 7 who have met standard on SBAC recommended for Algebra 1?

The Math 8 course is as rigorous and demanding as the previous Algebra course taught in 8th grade. The new Algebra 1 course addresses content previously taught in the second semester of Algebra and several higher level topics, such as exponential functions, arithmetic and geometric sequences, and piecewise functions. Students who have learned the 8th grade standards prior to entering Algebra 1 are likely to be more successful than students having learned only the 7th grade standards. However, according to the authors of the Common Core State Standards, “students who master the K-7 material will be able to take Algebra 1 in 8th grade” (<http://www.corestandards.org/about-the-standards/myths-vs-facts/>).

6. Students in Math 7 ACC with a D or F with a GPA less than 3.0 who have *not met* standard on SBAC should be placed into Math 8.

Why should a student struggling in Math 7 ACC take Math 8 the following year?

The Math 8 course is as rigorous and demanding as the previous Algebra course taught in 8th grade and addresses much of the same content previously taught in Algebra. For example, in Math 8 students graph and solve linear equations and systems of linear equations and compare properties of functions represented algebraically, graphically, in tables or by verbal descriptions. The grade 8 standards will transition students effectively into a full Algebra 1 course.

7. Students in Math 7 ACC with an A, B or C or with a GPA 3.0 or greater or who have *met standard* on SBAC should be placed into Algebra 1.

How is Algebra 1 more rigorous than the Algebra course offered prior to 2015?

The current Algebra 1 course addresses content previously taught in the second semester of Algebra and several higher level topics, such as exponential functions, arithmetic and geometric sequences, and piecewise functions. The course is more rigorous and demanding than the previous Algebra course taught in the 8th grade. Students who successfully complete Math 7 Accelerated, which includes the linear equation and function work from the 8th grade standards, should be well prepared for this course.

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