

# Ventura USD

## Exhibit

### Mathematics Placement Protocol for Students Entering Grade 9

E 6152.1

#### Instruction

#### PLACEMENT IN MATHEMATICS COURSES

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 opportunities to succeed in a sequence of mathematics courses recommended for admission into the University of California and California State University systems. (BP 6152.1(a) Student achievement in mathematics is important to prepare students for college and their future careers, especially those careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) (SB 359 California Mathematics Placement Act of 2015, Section 1(a)).

The Ventura Unified School District, in collaboration with administrators has adopted the following mathematics placement policy to be implemented beginning Spring, 2016 for the 2016-17 school year. All protocols in the policy meet SB 359 requirements.

#### FAIR, OBJECTIVE PLACEMENT CRITERIA

Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students shall be enrolled in mathematics courses based on the district placement criteria. No student shall repeat a math course which he/she has successfully completed based on the district's placement criteria. (Initial placement is made during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade school year with placement reevaluation during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade school year.)

#### Mathematics 1 Honors

- Grade 7 CAASPP Summative Assessment
  - Exceeded Standards (Level 4), or
  - Met Standards (Level 3), or
  - Nearly Met Standards (Level 2)
- Grade 8 District Benchmark Exams – Mostly “Advanced”
- Above average to average performance on Grade 8 classroom assessments

## **Mathematics 1**

- Grade 7 CAASPP Summative Assessment (Any level)
- Grade 8 District Benchmark Exams – Mostly “Advanced” and “Proficient”
- Good or average performance on Grade 8 classroom assessments

## **Math 1 Readiness**

- Grade 7 CAASPP Summative Assessment
  - Nearly Met Standards (Level 2) or
  - Not Met Standards (Level 1)
- Grade 8 District Benchmark Exams – Mostly “Basic” and “Below Basic”
- Below average performance on Grade 8 classroom assessments

## **THE USE OF SUBJECTIVE PLACEMENT MEASURES**

When placement is not clear, a teacher’s professional judgment based on their classroom contact with a child over several months should be used for making recommendations. No subjective recommendations are used to change a student’s placement to a lower math course than the placement protocol indicates. 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 Criteria, he/she may be admitted to the course based on the recommendation of a teacher who has personal knowledge of the student’s academic ability.

## **PLACEMENT RECOURSE (WAIVER)**

Placement decisions shall be made according to a timeline that allows for maximum use of current objective measures. A student and his/her guardian who are dissatisfied with the placement of the student may appeal the decision to the Superintendent or designee no later than the tenth day of instruction in ninth grade. The Superintendent or designee shall decide whether or not to overrule the placement determination within ten school days of receiving the appeal. The decision of the Superintendent or designee shall be final.

## **PLACEMENT CONFIRMATION**

The Superintendent or designee will check that each student is properly placed according to the criteria prior to the start of the school year. Any student found to be misplaced shall be promptly placed in the correct mathematics course. Within the first month (30 days) of school, a common classroom assessment will be used as a check point to ensure all students are appropriately placed and permit reevaluation of individual pupil progress.

Policy: VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
adopted: June 14, 2016 Ventura, California