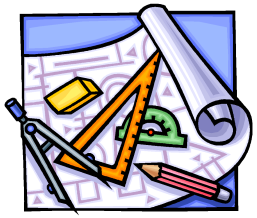
Overview of Acceleration Program for Mathematics



The Lexington County School District One Acceleration Program for Mathematics is designed to provide students whose academic performance and work habits indicate readiness for the challenges of a faster paced and more rigorous curriculum.

Qualification for the acceleration program offers students the opportunity to participate, but students and their parents and/or guardians make the decision regarding participation. Students in the acceleration program will be expected to progress more quickly through the mathematics curriculum at an advanced instructional level in Grade 6 and Grade 7 in preparation for Algebra 1 Honors in Grade 8.

To meet the high expectations set for all students in this program, class attendance and preparation for classwork is very important. To ensure no gaps in content knowledge, the S. C. College- and Career-Ready Standards for Mathematics in Grades 6-8 and those for Algebra 1 Honors are compacted and taught in Grades 6-8. The increased demands related to pace and rigor requires students to be highly motivated and self-directed learners who work collaboratively with others as well as independently. Students are expected to complete assignments in a timely manner, work productively, and study daily in preparation for classwork.

Students in the Acceleration Program for Mathematics in middle school are encouraged to take one or more advanced placement mathematics courses, such as AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics and AP Computer Science in high school.

Revised February 2019

Lexington County School District One Acceleration Program for Mathematics

- Accelerates the pace and increases the depth of study in mathematics
- Challenges students through increased rigor
- Expects students to assume an increased level of personal responsibility and accountability for their learning
- Requires students to use connections among areas of mathematics and other disciplines to solve complex problems
- Develops study skills and work habits that reflect self-motivation and self-direction
- Demands excellence and commitment
- Enables students to learn all mathematics content standards and process standards for middle school and those for Algebra 1 Honors in Grades 6-8
- Provides a strong foundation for and leads to advanced placement courses in district high schools

Compacted Curriculum for the Acceleration Program for Mathematics

The Acceleration Program for Mathematics provides students with learning experiences to develop mathematical reasoning, critical and strategic thinking skills, problem solving skills, and the ability to use appropriate academic vocabulary to communicate solutions to real-world and mathematical problems, justify reasoning, and critique the reasoning of others. An in-depth understanding of concepts, procedures, and relationships within the real number system establishes a strong foundation for the study of Algebra 1 Honors and subsequent math courses.

The curriculum emphasizes reasoning, critical thinking, communication, creativity, problem solving, and innovation. Mathematical content standards are related to the real number system, operations, algebraic thinking, geometry, measurement, data analysis and probability. Emphasis is placed on the relationships among areas of mathematics as well as connections to and applications in other disciplines. Students use mathematics to solve problems in real-world contexts by applying concepts and skills through individual and group learning experiences. Collaborative work allows students to create and evaluate unique solutions to non-routine problems. Students use mathematics to organize, apply, analyze, and evaluate given information, communicate their solutions, explain/justify reasoning, and critique the reasoning of others using tables, charts, graphs, equations and other representations.

Qualifying Criteria for the Acceleration Program for Mathematics

For initial placement in the Acceleration Program for Mathematics in Grade 6, the following factors will be considered.

- Performance on standardized tests such as
  - ✓ SC READY
  - ✓ STAR 360
- Academic performance in the classroom
  - ✓ Produce high-quality work
  - ✓ Maintain an average of 80 or higher in mathematics

Students in the Acceleration Program for Mathematics should demonstrate the following characteristics:

- Follow written and verbal directions
- Work independently and collaboratively
- Exhibit self-motivation and self-direction
- Prepare and organize materials for class
- Complete assignments in timely manner
- Use higher order thinking skills routinely to apply, analyze, evaluate, and create

To participate in the program, students must meet all of the placement criteria below or meet state gifted identification criteria in mathematics.

Placement Criteria for Rising Grade 6 Students

Criteria	Performance/Achievement Level
Standardized Tests	Score "Exceeds Expectations" on the Mathematics section of SC READY OR Attain a scale score of 813 or higher in Mathematics and 606 in Reading on Grade 5 winter STAR 360 assessments.
Academic Achievement	Maintain an average of 80 or higher in Mathematics

Expectations and Procedures for Continued Participation in Acceleration Program in Mathematics

- Maintain scores of 80 or higher on summative mathematics assessments
- Exhibit work and study habits that reflect self-motivation and self-direction
- Demonstrate personal responsibility and accountability during collaborative and individual learning experiences
- Students are not expected to re-qualify each year based on standardized test scores.
- If any stakeholder (student, parent, teacher) has a concern about academic performance and/or continued participation in the acceleration program, a conference should be scheduled to analyze data and discuss next steps.

Revised February 2019

Procedures for Placement of Rising Grade 7 and Grade 8 Students

- Scores on standardized tests such as SC READY and STAR 360 will be analyzed.
- Performance on projects and summative assessments will be evaluated.
- Since students in the Acceleration Program are taught standards beyond grade level, a personalized plan will be developed to ensure each student beginning participation after grade 6 learns all math standards taught in prior accelerated courses.
- A conference will be held to discuss data and determine the most appropriate placement and next steps.

Parents who wish to appeal a recommendation for placement should contact the school and follow the appeal process.

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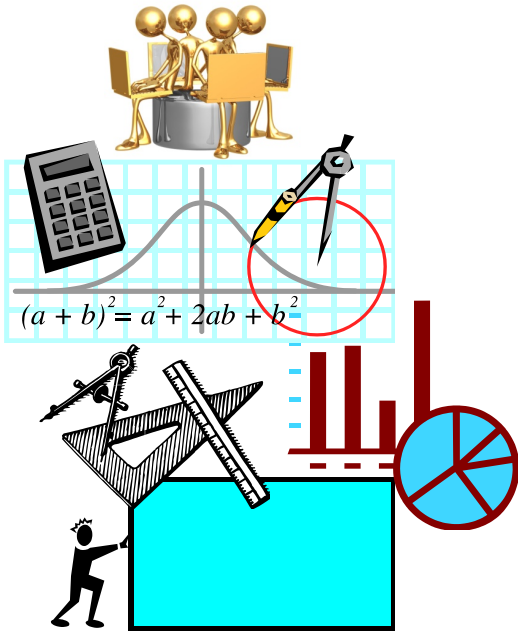
Acceleration Program for Mathematics in Grades 6-8



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