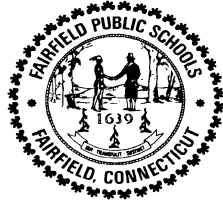


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TO: Dr. David Title
FROM: Dr. Margaret Boice
DATE: March 14, 2014

RE: Mathematics Articulation Grades 6 to 7

Attached to this memo are the math articulation documents that address procedures for placing grade 5 students into middle school math courses. I would like to point out some important points about the process.

- We have based some criteria, specifically the Student Evaluation Form and the Blue Ribbon Data, on the results of several years of data collection through grade 8. These criteria are consistent with success in middle school math.
- In order to use current and relevant data, we have removed the CMT from the list of criteria since that test is no longer administered. We have also removed the CogAT, since that test is now administered in grade 3.
- We have added a grade 5 achievement test since we will not have state test data to use until next year. We will re-evaluate the use of this assessment when we receive SBAC data, starting next year.
- Most grade 6 students will take either Math 6 or Transition to Pre-Algebra. There are a few for whom placement in Pre-Algebra 7 is appropriate.
- A student who enters the Pre-Algebra 7 course will miss important grade six standards that are necessary to be successful in the Pre-Algebra-7 course. As referenced in the Common Core State Standards Appendix A for Mathematics, “[S]kipping material to get students to a particular point in the curriculum will likely create gaps in the students’ mathematical background, which may create additional problems later, because students may be denied the opportunity for a rigorous Algebra I or Mathematics I course and may miss important content” (p. 80). Therefore, the district takes careful consideration through a set of rigorous criteria to make this placement decision into the Pre-Algebra 7 course so students are not negatively impacted in future mathematics courses. For this reason, the Request for Reconsideration process does not apply to the Pre-Algebra 7 course.
- Teachers use the guidelines listed as well as other data to determine which students will take the grade 5 achievement test. They will share that information with parents at

conferences this spring. If a student is placed into Math 6 and the parent disagrees with that placement, the parent will sign a form that provides us with permission to test the student, and the student will be tested.

- After the Transition to Pre-Algebra testing is complete, the parent will receive a letter with the child's placement into Math 6 or Transition to Pre-Algebra. If the parent does not agree with placement into Math 6, a Request for Reconsideration form is available at the middle school. This form must be completed and returned to the middle school by June 30.
- Students who successfully complete the grade 6 Transition to Pre-Algebra course will enroll in Pre-Algebra 7 and then Algebra 1 in grade 8. If they continue on this path, they will reach Calculus in high school. However, when some students enter grades 11 and 12 they find that they have greater interest in the social sciences or in languages, and they pursue AP courses in those subjects and take Statistics in place of Calculus.
- Students who take Math 6 may still access Calculus in high school by taking Algebra 2 and Geometry concurrently or by taking a summer course in math. Students need prior content knowledge as well as excellent study skills to be successful in advanced courses. For some students, readiness for that occurs in high school and not in middle school.
- Our goal is to appropriately place students where they will be challenged and be successful; our intention is not to limit enrollment or act as barriers. The middle school transition is an important developmental time for young adolescents, and they have many developmental needs – social, emotional and academic. We strive to help them maintain a healthy balance as they move through the middle school years.