Math Acceleration in Middle School: Placement Process

AUSD students in 6th and 7th grade are offered the opportunity to accelerate based on their performance on four standards-aligned assessments taken during the course of the year. When a student is offered a place in an accelerated class, it is important for the student and the parents/guardians to consider their decision with care. After results are compiled in April, students and families will be notified in May if they qualify for placement in an accelerated course the following year. The math courses offered in the Alameda Unified School District are rigorous and students who do not accelerate in middle school will have opportunities for acceleration in high school.

Course Sequences

	Middle School Course Sequence	Accelerated Path Sequence
6th Grade	CCSS Math 6	CCSS Math 6
7th Grade	CCSS Math 7	Math 7/8 Accelerated
8th Grade	CCSS Math 8	Algebra I

Criteria for Compressed Math 7/8 Accelerated: Current 6th Graders

Matrix score	0	1	2	3
CAASPP 2018	Standard Not Met	Standard Nearly Met	Standard Met	Standard Exceeded
MDTP- Math 8 Readiness	24 and below 60% and below	25-30 62.5% - 75%	31-35 77.5% -87.5%	36 and above 90% and above
Benchmark 1	69 % and below	70-79 %	80-89 %	90% and above
Benchmark 2	69 % and below	70-79 %	80-89 %	90% and above

- Students with a matrix score of 10 - 12 will be offered placement in Math 7/8 Accelerated.
- Students with a matrix score of 8 or 9, including standard met or exceeded on the CAASPP, 31 or more points on the MDTP, and no zeros, are eligible with teacher recommendation and parent/guardian/student consultation.
- Students missing CAASPP and other scores will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Criteria for Algebra I: Current 7th Graders

Matrix score	0	1	2	3
CAASPP 2018	Standard Not Met	Standard Nearly Met	Standard Met	Standard Exceeded
MDTP- High School Readiness	27 and below 60% and below	28-33 62.5% - 73%	34-39 77.5% -86.7%	40 and above 89% and above
Benchmark 1	69 % and below	70-79 %	80-89 %	90% and above
Benchmark 2	69 % and below	70-79 %	80-89 %	90% and above

- Students with a matrix score of 10 - 12 will be offered placement in Algebra 1.
- Students with a matrix score of 8 or 9, including standard met or exceeded on the CAASPP, 34 or more points on the MDTP, and with no zeros, are eligible with teacher recommendation
- Students missing CAASPP and other scores will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Seventh grade math students who qualify to enroll in Algebra 1 in the 8th grade, thereby skipping the CCSS 8th grade course, will be provided with independent online summer work covering the CCSS Math 8 content standards. Students need to complete this work to be successful in Algebra 1.

Criteria to Remain in the Accelerated Course Sequence

- A student who meets the criteria for the accelerated course in either grade 6 or 7 must continue to be successful in their current math course and pass the third benchmark.
- Students enrolled in the accelerated class who earn below a C- will receive a progress report and parents will be notified.
- At the end of the first trimester, if a student has earned a grade below a C, parents/guardians will be notified and a team of parent/guardian, teacher, student, and administrator will meet to decide if continuing on the accelerated path is in the best interest of the student.

Enrollment Process

In May, parents of students who qualify to enroll in an accelerated class, either 7th and 8th combined for current 6th grade, or Algebra 1 for current 7th grade, will receive a letter with information and an **Opt-In/Opt-out form**. After considering the alternatives, you must return the form to enroll your student in a math course for the following year.

Appeal Process

If a student does not meet the minimum criteria for eligibility, parents/guardians may choose to appeal. Parents will complete a written appeal document and submit it to the principal. The principal will review the information and contact the parents to discuss the best placement for the student. Parents/guardians and students should carefully consider all factors in their decision to pursue the accelerated path. If a decision cannot be made at the site level, parents may contact the Coordinator of Secondary Education, Terri Elkin, at telkin@alamedaunified.org.