

## FCASD Criteria for Grade 8 Math Placement – Accelerated Pathway

The goal of the Fox Chapel Area School District Math Department is to place students in math courses in which they will be challenged while maximizing their potential to succeed. The math department identified key factors that increase a student’s likelihood to achieve success in advanced math classes. These key factors include:

A) Attributes. The classroom teacher uses a check off sheet to indicate if the student is below average, average, above average or top of the class for each attribute. Students must demonstrate a high level of competency (based on teacher observation) in the following areas:

1. Demonstration of higher-level thinking skills
2. Retention and application of concepts
3. Frequent qualification for accelerated learning experiences
4. Acceptance of the challenge of accelerated learning experiences
5. Performance on accelerated learning experiences
6. Display of proper mathematical procedures
7. Acquisition of new information
8. Academic independence/seek help when needed
9. Demonstration of accurate computation skills
10. Explanation and justification of responses

B) Score on most recent PSSA Exam

C) Percentage of assignments completed on time

C) Math report card grades

D) Score on Math 7 Final Exam

E) Performance on curriculum-based assessment(s) (CBA)/Classroom Diagnostic Test (CDT)/STAR Math Test

Once a student is placed in an accelerated math course, he/she is required to maintain at least an 85% average in the course. If the student earns a final course grade of 85% or above, he/she will progress to the next accelerated course in the recommended course pathway.

Criteria	Acc. Algebra I (from Pre-Algebra 7)	Algebra Core (from Math 7)	Acc. Algebra I (from Math 7)
Attribute Chart	Successful completion of Pre-Algebra 7	All ratings must be “Top of the Class” or “Above Average.”	All checks must be in the “Above Average” category.
PSSA		Top quartile of Math 7 students	Top 10% of Math 7 students
Assignment Completion		85% and above	95% and above
Math Grade		90% or above in all four 9-week periods	All “A” grades (93% or above)
Math 7 Final Exam		Minimum of 80% on Final Exam	Minimum of 90% on Final Exam
STAR Scores (Sep/Nov/Feb)		When ranked by overall score in cohort containing all Math 7 students, student must fall in the top quartile in all 3 assessments	When ranked by overall score in cohort containing all Math 7 students, student must fall in the top 10% in all three assessments
<b>Qualification</b>		<b>Must meet 5 of 6 criteria to qualify for Algebra Core</b>	<b>Must meet all 6 criteria to qualify for a Placement Exam to determine qualification.</b>

The criteria are regularly revisited. They are subject to change based on recurrent data review and analysis. **March 2022**