9th Grade Math Placement Policy

Blue Ridge Academy recognizes the importance of each student's achievement in all subject areas, including mathematics as critical for college and career readiness. This policy is in place to adopt a fair, objective, and transparent mathematics placement policy and protocol for pupils entering Grade 9, and for all learners in all subgroups taking multiple objective academic measures of pupil performance into consideration.

The purpose of the Blue Ridge Academy Governing Board approving this 9th Grade Math Placement Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Outline a Mathematics Placement Protocol
2. Establish Procedures for Timely Recourse
3. Establish Procedures for Annual Review of Data
4. Establish a Limitation on the Use of Subjective Placement Measures
5. Outline Assessment Protocol
6. Establish Policy Availability
7. Outline Compliance with the Education Code

1. **Mathematics Placement Protocol:** Therefore, in accordance with the California Mathematics Placement Act of 2015, this Governing Board directs staff to create, implement, and monitor a mathematics placement protocol for pupils entering grade nine. This policy must include the following objective elements when considering student placement:

   - Multiple objective academic measures of pupil performance;
   - Interim and summative assessments that are aligned to state-adopted content standards in mathematics;
   - At least one placement checkpoint within the first month of the school year to ensure accurate placement and permit reevaluation of individual student progress
   - Annual examination of pupil placement data;
   - Clear and timely recourse for questions regarding pupil placement;
   - Regular evaluation of students' progress.

2. **Procedures for Timely Recourse:** The School Director shall implement a procedure, including clear and timely recourse, whereby each pupil and his or her parent or legal guardian may question their placement in a mathematics class.

3. **Annual Review of Mathematics Placement Data:** School staff shall annually review aggregate school wide data on math placement and compare placements school wide with

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placements of students in various racial/ethnic, gender, and socioeconomic (e.g., free/reduced meal-eligible) subgroups to ensure that pupils who are qualified to progress in mathematics courses are not held back in a disproportionate manner. The staff shall report on the aggregate results of this review to the Board.

4. **Limitation on Use of Subjective Placement Measures:** Subjective measures, such as placement recommendations, may not be considered in determining 9th grade mathematics placement. However, recognizing that facilitators and counselors are often aware of students' talents and abilities that are not reflected in objective data, an exception to this prohibition may be made to advance a student to a higher mathematics class than objective data indicates.

5. **Assessment Protocols:** Assessment protocol shall be reported to the Board on an annual basis and before any changes in assessment protocol or assessment software are implemented.

6. **Policy Availability:** This policy will appear on the school's website and be included in the student/family handbook.

7. **Compliance with the Education Code:** This policy in in compliance with California Education Code *51224.7*
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB359

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