

Advanced Courses in Mathematics Legislation SL 2019-120; 115C-81.36 Revised with SL 2020-3, May 2020 IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

Purpose

This document is intended to support Onslow County Middle Schools with effective implementation of the requirements of the revised legislation requirements included in Session Law 2020-3 (Senate Bill 704) due to COVID-19.

This guidance document:

- Provides the changes to the current Advanced Courses in Mathematics legislation, which are a result of school closures due to COVID19, and how these changes will impact the Onslow County Schools.
- Provides guidance concerning initial mathematics placement in the absence of end-of-course (EOC) and end-of-grade (EOG) assessment data.
- Provides guidance to meet the new component of the legislation regarding a parent's and student's right to request an EOG or EOC assessment for the purpose of placement in advanced math courses or advanced learning opportunities since an EOG or EOC score for the Spring 2020 was not available.
 - o This request will occur after initial mathematics placements have been made by Onslow County Middle Schools and shared with students and families. To support this process, this guidance document also includes a sample placement letter and an EOG/EOC Advanced Math Assessment Request Form to use when documenting this process.

UPDATED LEGISLATION

NCGS-SL-2020-3 (SB 704) Advanced Courses in Mathematics:

SECTION 2.8.(a) Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-81.36(a1) and (b), math placement for the 2020-2021 school year shall be determined as follows:

- (1) Initial math placements for all students shall be made consistent with local policies, in consultation with a student's 2019-2020 school year math teacher.
- (2) For students not initially placed in advanced courses or advanced learning opportunities in math, a student or student's parent may request administration of the end-of-grade or end-of-course test for the mathematics grade or course in which the student was enrolled for the 2019-2020 school year solely for the purpose of determining math placement for the 2020-2021 school year. Any student scoring at the highest level on the math end-of-grade or end-of-course test shall be placed as provided in G.S. 115C-81.36(a1) and

SECTION 2.8.(b) For the purposes of G.S. 115C-81.36(c), the Department of Public Instruction shall submit its December 15, 2020, report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the number and demographics of students who were (i) enrolled in advanced mathematics courses, including high school level mathematics courses in eighth grade, or (ii) given other advanced learning opportunities for the 2020-2021 school year. The report shall include information on the type and format of advanced mathematics courses or advanced learning opportunities provided and shall also include any feedback provided by local boards of education on the implementation of G.S. 115C-81.36.

How do these legislated changes impact Onslow County Middle Schools?

- OCS will use a variety of data to determine initial placement into advanced learning opportunities for mathematics. Students earning a Level 5 will be served in either Advanced Math 6, Advanced Math 7 or Math 1 at the middle level. **Applications and placements tests** will not be utilized in making initial placement decisions for most students. Students new to the Onslow County Schools who lack historical data, may take the EOG or EOC to determine initial placement.
- Since no EOG or EOC score is available due to COVID-19, students/parents have the right to request an appeal after the initial placement. This appeal includes the request to take an EOC or EOG for the sole purpose of mathematics placement.
- In consultation with the math content coordinator, research and accountability, and AIG programming, OCS has developed a process to inform students/parents of how to appeal the mathematics placement decision.

Guidance for initial placement for advanced math courses

Initial mathematics placements for all students shall be made consistent with local policies, in consultation with a student's 2019-2020 school year math teacher. When EOG or EOC test scores are not available, like the 2019-20 school year due to COVID-19, OCS will reference the options below to determine which students are to be considered for advanced mathematics courses and advanced learning opportunities.

The Onslow County Schools encourages middle school administrators to consider the following options in making placement decisions:

- most recent EOG/EOC data, keeping in mind that a student does not have to earn a Level 5 to participate in advanced mathematics courses,
- other assessment data i.e. EVAAS, iReady Diagnostic, etc.,
- course performance prior to school closure,
- data routinely used to offer advanced learning opportunities for AIG students,
- student learning profiles,
- teacher or team observations,
- student work samples, and/or
- other evidence of critical thinking and/or student readiness to achieve.

In utilizing the data points above, no single data point should prohibit a student from consideration in advanced learning opportunities or advanced mathematics courses. *However, any single piece of data, at an exemplary level, indicates a student's potential need for the mathematics advanced learning opportunity or advanced math courses.*

Guidance for Advanced Math Course Placement Appeal Process (occurs after placement decision has been made and communicated to families and students):

1. Parent/Student contacts school administration to request consideration for advanced math course placement. This occurs after initial placement decision has been made and communicated to student/family.
2. Parent requests the 2019-20 EOG/EOC assessment be administered by completing the EOG/EOC Advanced Math Assessment Request Form. This is available through the Research and Accountability Director, Lisa Thompson.
3. Once the parent/student request has been completed and submitted to school administration, the school test coordinator schedules a test session at the direction of building administration and in accordance with policies established in the Test Coordinator's Handbook and the respective EOG or EOC administration guide.
4. EOG/EOC Advanced Math Course Placement Testing window will be: July 7 - September 4, 2020. Research and Accountability will work with the schools' testing coordinators to develop a testing schedule.
5. Test scores will be provided to the district, middle schools and students/parents (scale score and academic achievement level).
6. A student who scores at the highest level on the administration of the EOG/EOC will be enrolled in an advanced math course for the 2020–21 school year and the student's schedule will be adjusted appropriately.
7. Note: 10/20 Day Withdrawals are not necessary to move a student into a higher-level course placement.

Guidance for communicating with parents and families about initial math placement

The Onslow County Schools will exercise due diligence in ensuring all students, parents, families and/or caretakers are aware of and have access to the appeal process as a matter of equity and access and to operate within the spirit of the law. The following information will be posted on the district's website with a link to this information being posted on each middle school website:

- Advanced Courses in Mathematics Legislation
- Onslow County Advanced Courses in Mathematics Implementation Plan
- Advanced Courses in Mathematics Placement Appeal Process
- Advanced Courses in Mathematics Assessment Request
- Advanced Courses in Mathematics Legislation FAQ

Each middle school will disseminate formal written communication regarding student placement and the appeals process. A sample letter has been included for middle schools to use.

SAMPLE Placement Letter

Dear Parents/ Guardians:

This letter is to inform you that as a result of our initial review of your child's data, your son or daughter will be placed in [redacted] for the 2020-21 school year. This initial mathematics placement has been made in consultation with your students' current year math teacher and in accordance with local policy.

Current legislation (SL 2020-3) includes a provision for students not initially placed in advanced math courses or advanced math learning opportunities, to request the administration of the end of grade (EOG) or end of course (EOC) tests for the mathematics grade or course in which the student was enrolled for the 2019-2020 school year, solely for the purpose of determining math placement for the 2020-2021 school year.

Based on the legislation, parents have the following options:

- If your child has not been placed in an advanced math course or advanced math learning opportunity, and you wish for your student to be included in this opportunity, you may request an EOG or EOC assessment by completing the EOG/EOC Advanced Math Assessment Request Form and submitting it to Title, Name by selected date.
- If your child has been placed in an advanced math course or advanced math learning opportunity, and you do not wish for your student to be included in this opportunity, you must put your request in writing to the [redacted].
- If you feel the math placement listed above is appropriate for your child, there are no actions to be taken at this time.

If there any questions or concerns about this placement information and options, please contact [redacted].