Advanced Off-Level Math Placement Test

Elementary School- Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of an off-level Advanced Math Placement Test for 4th-grade students?

The placement test is administered to measure your student's ability to problem-solve and apply mathematical concepts/procedures well beyond the current grade-level content for a potential advanced, two-year acceleration math placement as a 5th-grade student next year.

How are students selected to participate in the off-level Advanced Math Placement Test?

Parents/Guardians of 4th-grade students who meet the criteria below will be sent a link to register for the placement test. Students must meet the criteria of scoring a national percentile of ***85 or above*** *on* ***all three*** NWEA test sessions to be eligible to participate.

4th Grade NWEA- Adaptive Math Universal Screening Scores

- ☐ **3rd Grade Spring (>85th National Percentile)**
- ☐ **4th Grade Fall (>85th National Percentile)**
- ☐ **4th Grade Winter (>85th National Percentile)**

When will I learn more details about the spring placement test?

All 4th-grade parents/guardians whose students **meet the criteria** will receive an email in March to provide information about the test and the dates for test sessions at each elementary school.

- The "registration email" will **be sent only to students who meet** the criteria above.
- The email will contain **steps to register** your student for the assessment
- You **must** register your student by the deadline listed in the email.
  - Late registrations **will not** be accepted.

What if my student does not receive an invitation? If not initially invited, can my student "opt in" to participate in the Advanced Math Placement Test?

Parents/Guardians of students who **do not** meet the invitation criteria above **WILL NOT** have the option to register your student to participate in the 4th-grade Advanced Math Placement test.

- Not qualifying at this time is not a barrier to future opportunities.
- If your student does not qualify at this time, they will be placed in a 5th-grade-level math course and will have the opportunity to be assessed during the district's spring assessment window as a 5th-grade student, after having additional time to grow and demonstrate readiness for a potential 2-year acceleration as a 6th-grade student.

How can I check my student's NWEA scores? When were my student's NWEA scores shared with me?

Your student's NWEA scores are mailed home and will continue to be mailed after each NWEA testing session. Parent reports are provided after each testing session in the fall, winter, and spring.

Should I register my student for the Advanced Math Placement Test as a 4th-grade student?
The placement test is intended for students who consistently demonstrate high achievement in math and have met the rigorous screening criteria. These criteria are set at a high level to reflect the demands of advanced math courses.

- The assessment includes advanced material, which can be challenging and frustrating for most students.
- This is an optional test. However, to be evaluated for an advanced math placement, your student must participate in the process.
- We *recommend that only students who currently have consistently demonstrated a superior level of mathematical ability, as determined by the screening data and classroom performance, take this test at this time.*

Can my student be placed in an advanced math course without taking a placement test?
Participation in the placement test process is **voluntary**. However, to be considered for advanced math placement, your student **must** participate in the district off-level placement test to determine eligibility for acceleration. The purpose of this assessment is to determine whether your student is eligible to be placed in a **two-year accelerated mathematics course** for the upcoming school year.

Is this placement test grade level content? No, the test is ***not a 4th-grade assessment***. The test includes math content well beyond your student's current grade level.

- The off-level assessment will cover advanced problem-solving and mathematical concepts/procedures, emphasizing the math curriculum of the student's current grade level and well above, at a two-year advancement.
    - The assessment will consist of multiple-choice items, fill-in-the-blank responses, short-answer questions, and complex problem-solving tasks. In addition, select items will require students to demonstrate depth of knowledge by providing extended written responses that clearly explain their mathematical reasoning and problem-solving processes.
    - A study guide is not provided for the assessment. If you would like to review grade-level Michigan K-12 Mathematics Standards, you can do so using the district-provided link **here.**
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What course will my student be placed in the following school year, if they meet the advanced math placement criteria?
The advanced pathway curriculum progresses quickly, covering 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade material while at Kinawa Middle School.

- Students scoring at or above the established criteria on the Advanced 6H Placement Test will be placed in the 6 Honors, an **advanced math course** for 5th-grade students at Kinawa Middle School.
- Students scoring at or above the established criteria on the Advanced 7H Placement Test will be placed in the 7 Honors, an **advanced math course** for 6th-grade students at Kinawa Middle School.
- Students scoring at or above the established criteria on the Advanced Alg 1 Placement Test will be placed in theAlg 1 Honors, an **advanced math course** for 7th-grade students at Chippewa Middle School.
    - Once students are accepted into the Advanced Math program, they will be required to maintain a high standard of proficiency to remain in the program.
        - Advanced math students at Kinawa **are required** to maintain a Standard-Based Grading proficiency scale score of 3 to remain in the course. The *middle school math flow chart* can be found **here**.
        - Students in the advanced math courses at Chippewa and Okemos High School **are required** to maintain an 87% overall grade to remain in the course and

subsequent accelerated math courses. The *high school math flow chart* can be found **here.**

When and where will the test sessions be offered? One test session will be offered at each elementary school during the school day in the spring. The exact day and time for each building will be published in advance. The District also offers Advanced Math Placement Test sessions that occur in the fall for *new students*. Information regarding testing criteria and how to register for the test as a new student can be found **here.**

If my student is absent on the test date, will there be a make-up session? If your student is absent on the day of the scheduled test session at your building, they may participate in the makeup test session at Kinawa Middle School. The District does not provide additional opportunities beyond this make-up session. District-provided placement tests and test-out opportunities are offered only on designated dates, which are shared with families in advance for planning.

How long is the Advanced Math Placement test session? Each test session is scheduled for **two hours.** Students must pass all portions of the paper-and-pencil, timed, placement test to meet the criteria for placement in the 6 Honors Math course. The 6H (5th-grade course) and 7H (6th-grade course) placements are a two-year curriculum acceleration.

Will there be additional opportunities for my students to be supported? Students placed in our general, grade-level classroom for math instruction are clustered with students of like-ability and receive differentiated instructional support. Classroom teachers routinely differentiate instructional materials beyond grade-level content. Students not currently enrolled in an advanced math course will have additional opportunities to be assessed in the spring of 5th, 6th, and 7th grades.

How will my student be informed of the placement test results? Parents/Guardians will receive a placement letter. Students who have met the test criteria will automatically be placed in Kinawa's 6 Honors math class as a 5th-grade student.

*The assessment is **not a diagnostic tool.** It is for placement purposes only.*

- *Therefore, the **placement letter will not contain** an itemized analysis or percentages to denote your student's performance on the placement test.*
- *Copies of the placement test **are not returned or shared**, per District policy.*

Will the placement assessment information be shared with my student's current and future math teachers? Placement information will be shared to plan accordingly.

How many students are accepted for an advanced math placement? Advanced math courses do not have a set number of students to be accepted. The courses are open to students who have met the established criteria.

Can I appeal the placement decision if my student is not placed in an advanced math class? An appeal process is available after the assessment is completed and placement decisions are released. However, specific ***criteria must be met to qualify for an appeal.*** The placement letter will provide details on how to submit an appeal. The District Advanced Math Placement Committee will review all appeals submitted by the deadline. Please note that appeals will not be accepted after the deadline, and final appeal decisions will be communicated to parents/guardians by June 1st. The decision of the appeal review committee is final.

If my student does not meet the criteria for the advanced math class, are there other options available to support their learning needs? Students placed in our general, grade-level classrooms are clustered with students of like-ability and will receive differentiated instructional support. Classroom teachers routinely differentiate instructional materials beyond grade-level content.

Where can I go to learn more about the advanced learning opportunities for my student? For more information, includi*ng advanced learning opportunities, math flow charts, and Frequently Asked Questions* documents, visit our district website's **Gifted & Talented** section using the link provided **here**.