

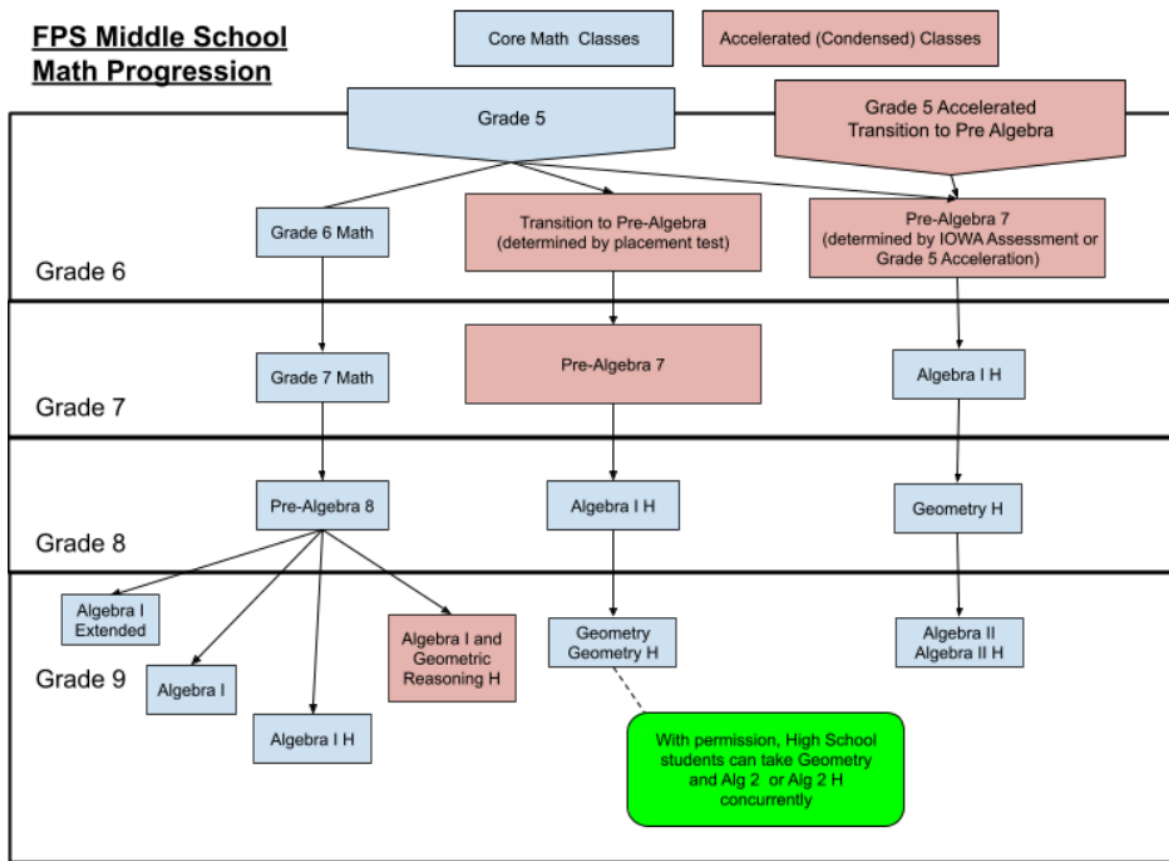


Fairfield Public Schools Grade 5 to Grade 6 Mathematics Placement Information

The mission for Fairfield Public Schools is to provide a comprehensive, rigorous education program for all students in the district. For most students, the grade-level standards identified in the Connecticut Core Standards provide the comprehensive, rigorous program needed to successfully progress through the mathematics courses in the Fairfield Public Schools curriculum.

Our middle school program builds upon the foundational mathematics in elementary school. Students learn proportional reasoning and algebraic thinking, essential for success in future mathematics courses. Students who are appropriately challenged and supported in middle school see the most success in their high school coursework.

Fairfield Public Schools offers three math courses in the middle school for grade six students: Math-6, Transition to Pre-Algebra, and Pre-Algebra 7.



Math-6

Students in Math 5 may be placed into Math 6. Math 6 is our on-grade-level course and addresses all Grade 6 CT Core Math Standards. Students are provided opportunities for support and advancement throughout. The course comprises 10 units, as outlined in our [course curriculum](#). Students in this course will progress to Math 7 in Grade 7 and Pre-Algebra in Grade 8, preparing them for Algebra 1 in high school.

In the Math 6 course, the instructional time focuses on five critical areas: (1) understanding of division of fractions; (2) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; (4) extending the concept of area to surface area and volume; and (5) developing understanding of statistical thinking.

Students who continue their achievement through Pre-Algebra 8 can seek future challenge through college double enrollment in mathematics courses, honors and AP courses, and/or dual enrollment opportunities in high school, as outlined in our [middle school progression](#) and [high school pathways](#) documents.

Transition to Pre-Algebra

Students in Math 5 have the opportunity to take an accelerated program in middle school, based on a teacher's recommendation. The program consists of two courses: Transition to Pre-Algebra in Grade 6 and Pre-Algebra 7 in Grade 7. The Transition to Pre-Algebra course combines all Math-6 curriculum and part of the Math 7 curriculum into one year. This accelerated-paced course consists of the full 10 units from the on-grade-level Math 6 course and 3 additional units from the Math 7 course. Students who are successful in this course will continue to Pre-Algebra 7 in Grade 7, and will have completed the 3 years of middle school math in 2 years. Students will be prepared to take Algebra 1H in Grade 8. Our Transition to Pre-Algebra curriculum can be found on our [district website](#).

In the Transition to Pre-Algebra course, the instructional time focuses on six critical areas: (1) completing the understanding of division of fractions; (2) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division, and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking, (5) extending the concept of area to surface area and volume, and (6) and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers for all operations.

A district assessment is required for recommendation. Parents can opt out of this assessment, and the student will be recommended for the grade-level Math 6 course.

Teacher recommendations for Transition to Pre-Algebra are based on the following district assessments, selected to best set students up for success in an accelerated program. The three aspects that are considered for placement are a) work behaviors based on the Math Practice standards, b) skill and content mastery as identified through unit assessment and benchmarks, and c) comprehensive content mastery as evidenced by the district assessment.

- Mastery (80% or above) on all classroom Unit assessments
- Mastery of fact fluency (Score of 26 or higher on Winter Benchmark)
- Math Practices Assessment 10 out of 12 on the rubric
- Score a 75% or above on the 5th-grade district assessment on the 5th-grade content.

Students who continue their achievement through Algebra 1 Honors can seek future challenge through double enrollment in mathematics courses, honors and AP courses, and/or college dual enrollment opportunities in high school, as outlined in our [middle school progression](#) and [high school pathways](#) documents.

Pre-Algebra 7

Students are placed into Pre-Algebra 7 if they are currently in Grade 5 Transition to Pre-Algebra. Pre-Algebra 7 may be taught by a Grade 6 teacher, or students may be included in the Grade 7 class, depending on enrollment. Pre-Algebra 7 is an accelerated-paced course that consists of 12 Units, which include all Pre-Algebra 8 content and the remaining standards from Math 7. Our curriculum for Pre-Algebra 7 can be found on the [district website](#).

Students in Math 5 can be placed into Pre-Algebra 7 if they meet several criteria in terms of grade level and above-grade-level content knowledge, and a strong demonstration of mathematical practices. Students in Math 5 who are placed into Pre-Algebra 7 will not receive instruction on the skipped material that is in Transition to Pre-Algebra. Students who are placed into Pre-Algebra 7 will take Algebra 1 H in Grade 7 and Geometry H in Grade 8.

In the Pre-Algebra 7 course, instructional time focuses on five critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) drawing inferences about populations based on samples, (3) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (4) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (5) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using

distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

Fairfield Public Schools established the following benchmarks to help determine placement for Pre-Algebra-7. The three aspects that are considered for placement are a) work behaviors based on the Math Practice standards, b) content mastery as identified through grade level expectations and assessment results, and c) aptitude based on the IOWA assessment. Based on students' performance on the Grade 5 district assessment, students will be invited to take the IOWA assessment for consideration for placement.

For students to be placed in Pre-Algebra 7, they would need to earn 6 out of 8 points using the following scores on the district assessments. Parents can not waive their child into this course.

- Performance on the IOWA Algebra Aptitude Test: 8th or 9th stanine (2 points)
- Score a 90% or above on the Grade 5 district assessment of Grade 5 content. (2 points)
- Score a 70% or higher on the Grade 5 district assessment of Grade 6 content. (2 points)
- Math Practices Assessment score of 11 out of 12 (2 points)

Students who continue their achievement through Geometry Honors can seek future challenge through double enrollment in mathematics courses, honors and AP courses, and/or college dual enrollment opportunities in high school, as outlined in our [middle school progression](#) and [high school pathways](#) documents.

A solid foundation in middle school mathematics leads to greater success in future coursework. Students who have mastered grade-level content are best prepared for academic success and opportunities in high school and beyond. Therefore, guidelines exist to help teachers recommend appropriate math courses for sixth graders. We aim to empower students to reach their fullest potential and feel prepared for the next level. Parents are encouraged to trust teachers' expertise in making recommendations.

Should you have any questions about mathematics courses, pathways, and opportunities for support and enrichment, please contact the Program Director of Mathematics, PK-12, Dr. Jennifer Chirles, jchirles@fairfieldschools.org

Information can be found on our district math website. [Math - Fairfield Public Schools](#)