



Math Pathway Information for Rockwall ISD Parents

Rockwall ISD is pleased to offer Math Pathways for learners beginning in Grade 5.

1) Who should consider the Math Honors Pathway?

The content of the Math 5 Honors class is *different* from the content of the Grade Level course. Math 5 (Grade Level) addresses all 5th grade math standards, which is one full year of curriculum. The Math 5 Honors (Advanced Math) class addresses all 5th grade math standards *and* many of the compatible 6th grade standards, which is essentially 1.5 years of curriculum.

The Math 5 Honors course is designed for

- Learners who have an interest in math or other STEM subjects - science, technology or engineering;
- Learners who are fluent in basic math facts;
- Learners who persevere through challenges and ask questions;
- Learners who wish to pursue courses through AP Calculus BC or IB Math Higher Level in high school.

The most critical consideration for math pathway selection is that each child has a strong foundation in math. Grade Level and Honors Math Pathway decisions will be made annually, however, moving from the Grade Level to the Honors Pathway beyond sixth grade may require additional state mandated assessments. The Academic Planning Guide [Math Flowchart](#) (linked) provides available courses for each pathway.

2) What is the Accelerated by Exam Math Pathway?

This pathway is for learners who wish to pursue courses through Dual Credit Calculus III/Differential Equations or IB Math Higher Level II their senior year of high school. (Note: Learners may pursue courses through AP Calculus BC or IB Math Higher Level through the Honors Math Pathway. It is additionally noteworthy that many universities require calculus courses to be taken through their university and only grant elective college credit for AP or dual credit calculus courses, depending on the university and major of study.) The Accelerated by Exam Math Pathway allows learners to accelerate 2 grade levels through the credit by exam process. A score of 80% or higher is required for each assessment component in order to accelerate out of a math course.

3) My child is new to RISD and I believe he/she may be a good candidate for the Accelerated by Exam Math Pathway. What are our options?

If the learner is enrolling in 6th Grade Math, they have 2 options upon enrollment in Rockwall ISD: Math 6 and Math 6 Honors.

A learner may be considered for the Accelerated by Exam Math Pathway during the first 2 weeks of the current school year if the school or parent identifies an educational need based on data (such as STAAR or other state/district assessments and previous school records).

- It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to complete the paperwork located on the RISD website for [Credit by Exam](#) (linked) and return to the middle school counselor within the first 2 weeks of



the current school year. Paperwork received after the first 2 weeks of the current school year will be considered the following spring for summer assessment.

- Learners scoring 80% or above on the 6A, 6B, and 7A CBE may be considered for the Accelerated by Exam Math Pathway. (Note: Learners must score 80% or above on each of the three exams to be considered for the Accelerated Math Pathway.)
 - The learner skips Math 6 Honors content (Math 6 and approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ of Math 7 content);
 - As a 6th Grade learner, they will be in class with 7th Grade learners;
 - The learner will be subject to secondary grading guidelines and take the Math 8 STAAR.
- Learners should be enrolled in Math 6 Honors pending CBE results.

4) What if my current 5th grade Rockwall ISD learner wants to enter the Accelerated by Exam Math Pathway during the course of the year or over the summer?

Learners should show an educational need based on data (such as STAAR, state/district assessments, and previous school records) to be considered for the Accelerated by Exam Math Pathway.

- Learners have the opportunity to be assessed using a CBE once per year if they show an educational need or by parent request. The CBE assessment may take place during the June and July Assessment windows. (November and February test dates are high school credit recovery only administrations.) Learners are eligible to take the Math CBE assessment beginning the summer between their 5th and 6th grade school years.
- It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to complete the request form located on the RISD website for [Credit by Exam](#) (linked) and communicate with the elementary school counselor within the timeframe given on the application. Requests received after the given time frame will be considered the following spring for summer assessment.
- Learners beyond grade 5 who wish to enter the Accelerated by Exam Math Pathway follow the same process, however, parents/guardians complete the Credit by Exam form and communicate with the middle school counselor.

5) How does my child study for the Credit by Exam?

There is no need to study for the CBE. Learners who are appropriately placed in the Accelerated by Exam Math Pathway are able to make sense of the math prior to any instruction. More information about the formatting of the assessment can be found at [Math CBE information](#) (linked). Note: The CBE process for acceleration/the Accelerated by Exam Math Pathway is administered in person through Rockwall ISD.