

FCASD Criteria for Grades 5-8 Math Placement – Accelerated Pathway

As always, the goal of the Fox Chapel Area School District Math Department is to place students in math courses in which they will be challenged while maximizing their potential to succeed. The math department identified key factors that increase a student’s likelihood to achieve success in advanced math classes. These key factors include:

A) Attributes. The classroom teacher uses a check off sheet to indicate if the student is below average, average, above average or top of the class for each attribute. Students must demonstrate a high level of competency (based on teacher observation) in the following areas:

- 1 Demonstration of higher level thinking skills
- 2 Retention and application of concepts
- 3 Frequent qualification for accelerated learning experiences
- 4 Acceptance of the challenge of accelerated learning experiences
- 5 Performance on accelerated learning experiences
- 6 Display of proper mathematical procedures
- 7 Acquisition of new information
- 8 Academic independence/ seeks help when needed
- 9 Demonstration of accurate computation skills
- 10 Explanation and justification of responses

B) Percentage of assignments completed on time

C) Math report card grades

D) Score on most recent PSSA test

E) Score on standardized measure of algebra aptitude [e.g. Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test (IAAT)]

F) Performance on curriculum-based assessment(s) (CBA)/ Classroom Diagnostic Test (CDT)

Once a student is placed in an accelerated math course, he/she is required to maintain at least an 85% average in the course. If the student earns a final course grade of 85% or above, he/she will progress to the next accelerated course in the recommended course pathway. Students earning a final course grade below 85% in Pre-Alg 7 will be enrolled in Algebra I in 8th grade. Students earning a final course grade below 85% in Pre-Alg 6 will be enrolled in Pre-Alg 7 in 7th grade.

In order to be enrolled in Algebra I Accelerated in 6th or 7th grade, a student must have completed the pre-algebra course with a final course grade of 85% or above.

Criteria for Accelerated Pathway Placement by Course

Criteria	Pre-Alg/5 th grade (Must have successfully completed Math 5)	Pre-Alg/6 th grade	Pre-Alg/7 th grade	Algebra I/ 8 th grade (from Math 7)	Algebra I Accelerated/ 8 th grade (from Math 7)
A. Attribute Chart	All checks must be in top of the class	All checks must be in above average or top of the class	Maximum of 3 checks in the average category. All others must be above average or top of the class.	Maximum of 3 checks in the average category. All others must be above average or top of the class.	All checks must be in the top of the class category
B. Assignment completion	90% and above	90% and above	85% and above	85% and above	95% and above
C. Math Report Card Grades	All “A” grades (93% and above)	All “A” grades (93% and above)	90% or above in all four 9-week periods	Final course grade of 90 % or above	93% or above in math all four 9-week periods
D. PSSA Score	Top 10% of grade-level FCASD advanced students (most recent PSSA)	Top quartile of grade-level FCASD advanced students (most recent PSSA)	Top quartile of grade-level FCASD students (most recent PSSA)	Top quartile of grade-level FCASD students (most recent PSSA)	Top quartile of grade-level FCASD advanced students (most recent PSSA)
E. IAAT Score	50 and above	50 and above	40 and above	40 and above	55 and above
F. CBA/ CDT Score	Sufficient mastery of major 6 th grade mathematics standards as demonstrated on Curriculum Based Assessment (CBA)	When ranked by overall score in a cohort containing all 5 th grade students, students must fall in the top quartile.	When ranked by overall score in a cohort containing Math 6 students, students must fall in the top quartile.	When ranked by overall score in a cohort containing Math 7 students, students must fall in the top quartile.	When ranked by overall score in a cohort containing Math 7 students, students must fall in the top ten percent.
	Must meet 2 of the 3 criteria A-C AND, all of the criteria D-F.	Must meet 5 of the 6 criteria above AND, the IAAT score cannot be below 40.	Must meet 5 of the 6 criteria above AND the IAAT score cannot be below 40.	Must meet 5 of the 6 criteria above AND the IAAT score cannot be below 40.	Must meet 6 of the 6 criteria above.

The criteria are regularly revisited. They are subject to change based on recurrent data review and analysis.

Revised: 08/27/2015