

GRADE 6 PLACEMENT MATHEMATICS PROCEDURES FOR ARTICULATION (2014-2015)

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, as identified in the Connecticut Core Standards, provide the comprehensive, rigorous program needed to successfully progress through the mathematics courses in the Fairfield Public School curriculum.

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

Math 6

Math 6 is a sixth grade course based on the Board of Educations' approved curriculum. This Math 6 course is aligned to the Connecticut Core Standards. The Math 6 course will focus on four critical areas*:

- Connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems;
- Completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes understanding negative numbers;
- Writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and
- Developing understanding of statistical thinking.

Transition to Pre-Algebra

The Transition to Pre-Algebra is a sixth grade course based on the Board of Educations' approved curriculum. The Transition to Pre-Algebra course combines the Math 6 course standards and part of the grade seven standards into one year. The Transition to Pre-Algebra will focus on five critical areas*:

- Connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems;
- Completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes operating with negative numbers;
- Writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations;
- Developing understanding of statistical thinking; and
- Geometric reasoning within two and three dimensional figures.

**Further information regarding the specific content addressed in each course can be found on the district website on the Curriculum and Instruction webpage (http://fairfieldschools.org/curriculum_instruction_math.htm).*

Criteria for the Transition to Pre-Algebra Course

To help determine the appropriate course in 6th grade, the Fairfield Public Schools established the following benchmarks to help guide 5th grade teachers to make recommendations into Math-6 or the Transition to Pre-Algebra course. The two aspects that are considered for placement are a) work behaviors based on the Math Practice standards, and b) content mastery as identified through grade level expectations and assessment results.

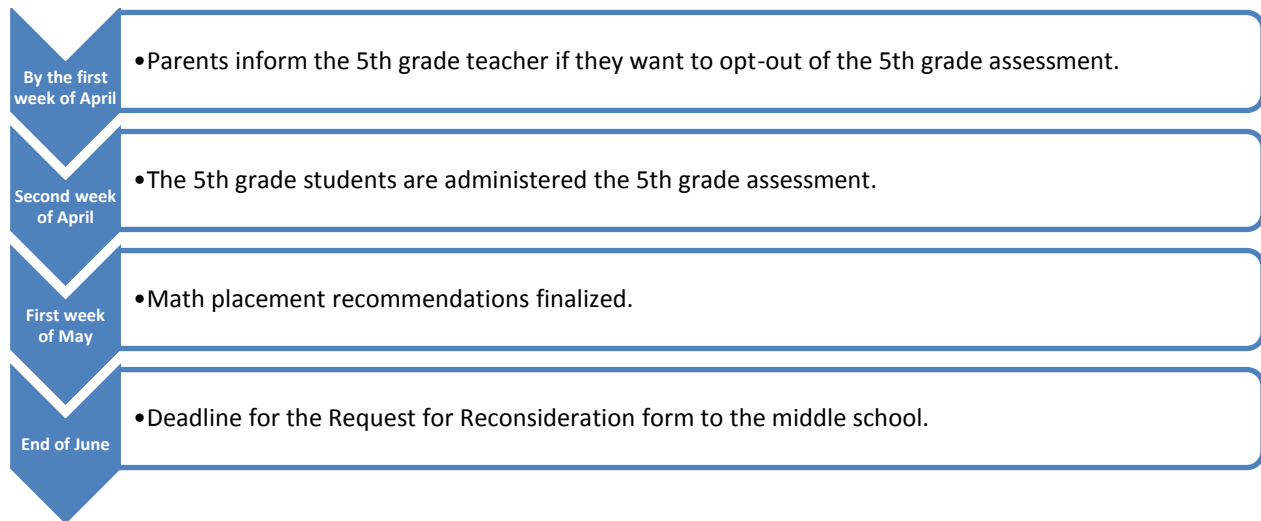
- Math Practices Student Evaluation score range of 16 – 20;
- Consistently meets Grade Level Expectations on five out of the seven expectations outlined on the winter student Progress Report;
- Score at least a 70% on the 5th grade assessment.

Teachers use the guidelines above to make a recommendation for the Transition to Pre-Algebra course.

Request for Reconsideration

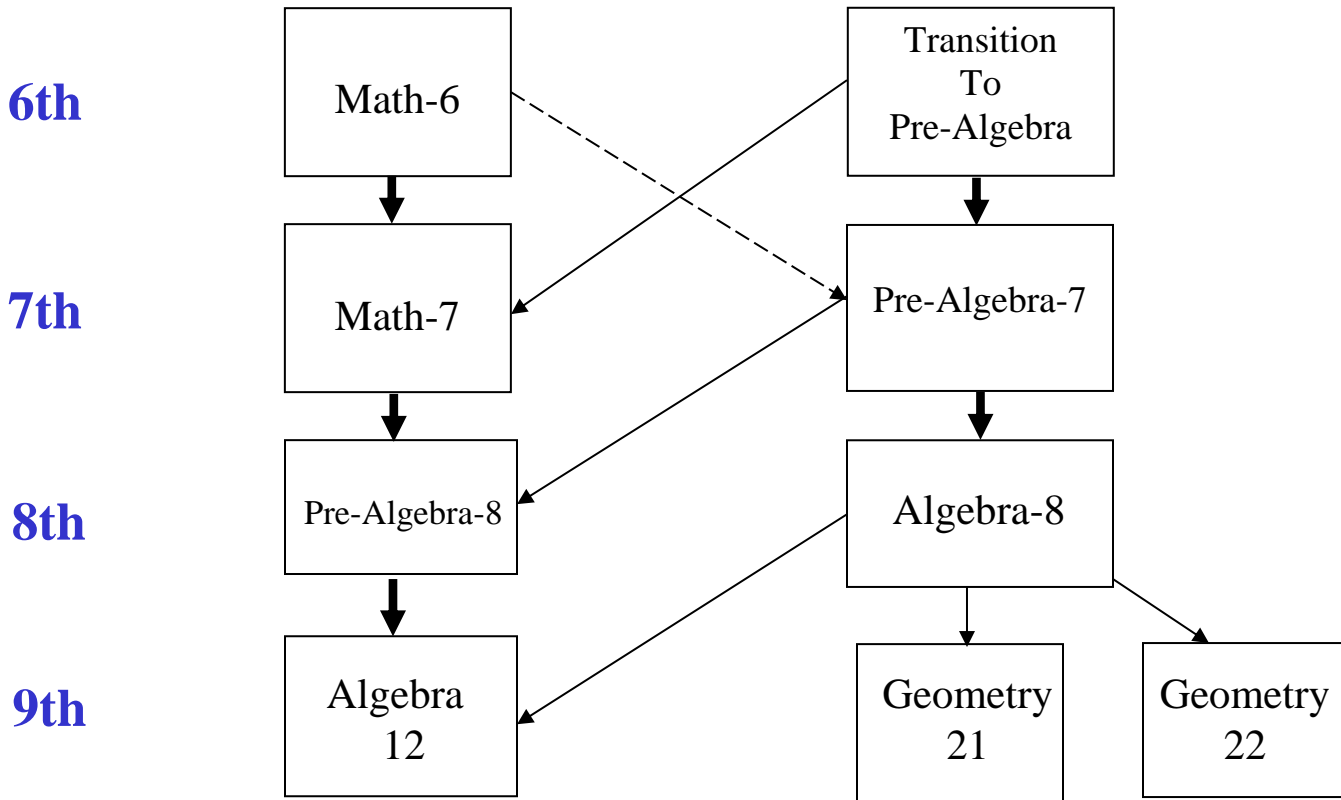
If the parent/guardian disagrees with the classroom teacher recommendation, they have another opportunity through the Request for Reconsideration process to enter into the Transition to Pre-Algebra course. Should the parent/guardian choose to follow this process, the student will need complete the 5th grade assessment (if not already completed). The parent/guardian will need to contact the middle school to complete the required Request for Reconsideration form. *Any request for reconsideration for placement into the Transition to Pre-Algebra course requires the student to take the assessment before the end of the school year to meet the Request for Reconsideration deadline as listed below in the timeline.*

The recommendation process will follow the timeline below:



Middle School Math Course Sequences

The figure below illustrates different course sequences that students can take through their middle school experience that leads into high school mathematics. Most students follow the vertical arrow sequence; however, some flexibility is available to move between the course sequences. For example, students can move from Math 6 into Pre-Algebra-7. Though as noted by the dashed line, to move to the Pre-Algebra from Math 6 requires students to make up missed content in order to be prepared to enter the Pre-Algebra-7 course.



High School Math Course Sequences

The figure below illustrates different course sequences that students can take through their high school experience in mathematics. Most students begin in Algebra 12, Geometry 21, or Geometry 22. However, some flexibility is available to move between the course sequences. If a student would like to get ahead in the course sequence, a student can take Algebra 2 and Geometry concurrently. All other courses require the student to meet the pre-requisites to enter into a desired course.

