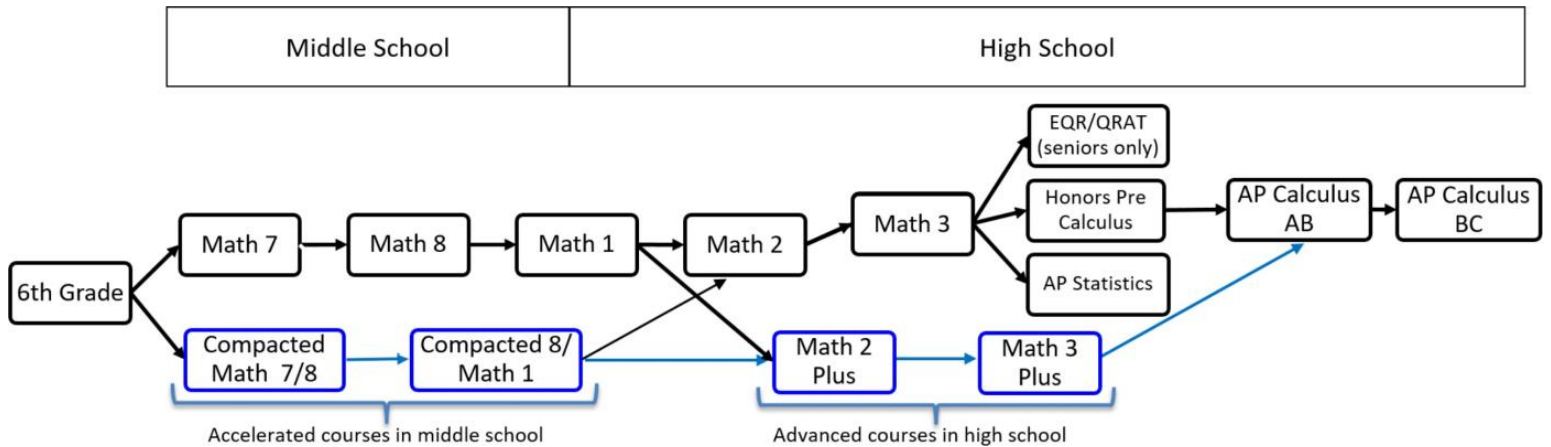


Dear teachers, parents/guardians, and middle school students,

In our efforts to best place students in math courses throughout our district and to provide multiple opportunities for students to take accelerated and advanced courses in mathematics, we would like to invite you to participate in our *Challenge Process*.

Consider where you or your student is in our math course progression:



Some examples of “challenging” a math course, include:

- Seeking placement into Compacted 8/Math 1 as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader after completing 6<sup>th</sup> grade math
- Seeking placement into Compacted 8/Math 1 (8<sup>th</sup> grade) after completing Math 7 (7<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Seeking placement into Math 2 or Math 2 Plus (9<sup>th</sup> grade) after completing Math 8 (8<sup>th</sup> grade)

If you wish to challenge a math course, please see the **Challenge Process** details on the following pages and complete the recommendation form in Step 1.

Thank you,



Suzie Craig

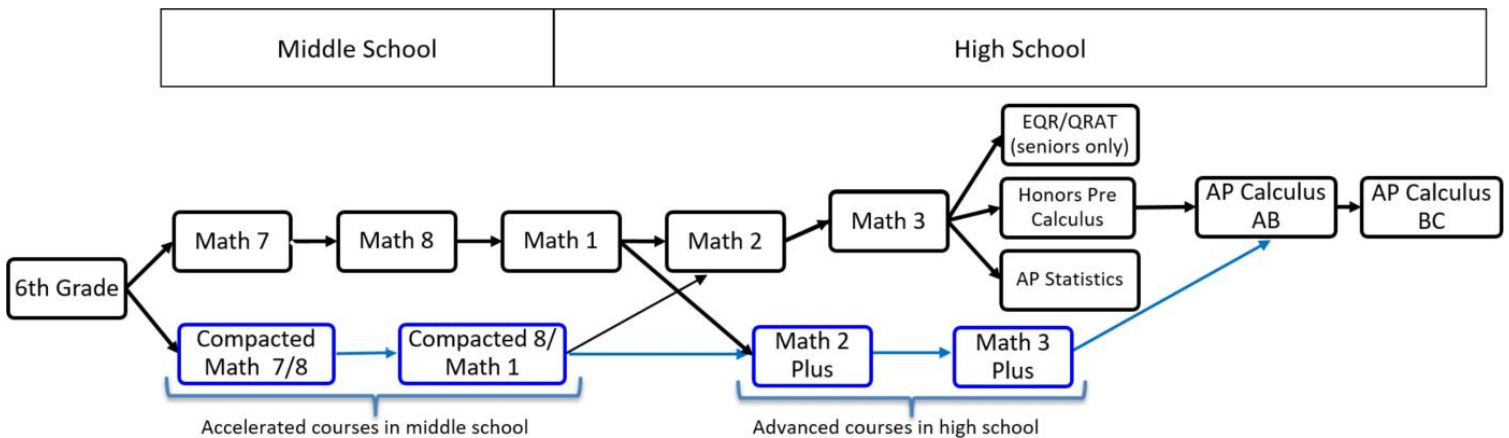
High School Mathematics Training Specialist Lead

Sacramento City Unified School District

### Opportunities for Acceleration and Advancement in Mathematics in SCUSD

Within the regular mathematics course progressing from kindergarten through high school, SCUSD has created opportunities for placement into accelerated/advanced math courses at 2 “decision points”. The first of which comes after 6<sup>th</sup> grade and the second of which comes after students have completed Math 1 (either in middle school or high school).

All students in SCUSD have the opportunity to be placed in an accelerated/advanced mathematics course at either or both decision points, and district-wide placement criteria have been established in order to determine the most appropriate placement for students. Students who accelerate at either *or* both decision points will have the opportunity to take Calculus and/or other higher-level mathematics classes in high school.



### “Challenging” A Mathematics Course

We do not recommend “skipping” a grade-level in mathematics because the Common Core Mathematics Standards progressively build concepts and skills from one grade-level to the next. Every grade-level is vital for a students’ complete understanding of mathematics in the K – 8 progression, and each grade-level contains content that is *only* taught in that year and is a building block for future math classes. *For more information on accelerating students in Middle School Common Core Mathematics and why skipping content is not encouraged, see Appendix A, pgs.80-81: [http://www.corestandards.org/assets/CCSSI\\_Mathematics\\_Appendix\\_A.pdf](http://www.corestandards.org/assets/CCSSI_Mathematics_Appendix_A.pdf)*

We understand that some students have been given opportunities to compress 2 or 3 years of math in 1 year, have taken mathematics courses over the summer, or have studied independently in a math course above their grade level. In an effort to best place students in mathematics courses in SCUSD, we are piloting a “Challenge Process” for the 2018-19 school year and will continue to refine the process over the next few years to best serve our students.

### Process and Guidelines for Challenging a Mathematics Course in SCUSD

**STEP 1:** A parent/guardian, teacher, administrator, or student (self) must submit a recommendation form here:

[tinyurl.com/MathChallengeRec](http://tinyurl.com/MathChallengeRec)

**STEP 2:** Once a recommendation comes in, district math specialists will review the recommendation and notify parents/guardians about the **Challenge Test**.

**STEP 3:** Students will be invited to take a Challenge Test to assess their ability to apply the skills and concepts from the math course they wish to challenge, as well as their preparedness for the course in which they are seeking placement. *Students will be expected to show proficiency in the math content and practice standards, as well as demonstrate critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.*

**STEP 4:** District math specialists will analyze each student’s Challenge Test scores, report card grades, CAASPP scores, and recommendation form to make an appropriate math course recommendation. Parents/guardians and school site administrators will be notified of the results, and students will be placed in the appropriate math course.



## Mathematics Course Challenge Process and Timeline

		Dates
STEP 1	Complete online Recommendation Form: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/MathChallengeRec">tinyurl.com/MathChallengeRec</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Can be submitted by a parent/guardian, teacher, administrator, or student (self)</i></li> </ul>	April 1 - August 1
STEP 2	District Math Specialists will call and email parents/guardians to notify them about the Challenge Test <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>You will be asked to choose a time from the given options for your student to come take the test at the District Office</i></li> <li>• <i>If you are not available for any of the given times, please contact us</i></li> </ul>	As recommendations get submitted
STEP 3	Students take the Challenge Test  <i>Depending on the time of year, this may be done virtually or it may be done in person at the district office (Serna Center).</i>	May – August
STEP 4	Upon reviewing the data, District Math Specialists will notify parents/guardians and principals regarding the appropriate course placement recommendation.	<i>Within 1 week after students take the Challenge Test</i>

For more information or questions, please contact:

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