



Math Pathways in Middle School

As you may already know, the majority of students in middle school are programmed for the College and Career Math Pathway courses (CC Math 6, CC Math 7 or CC Math 8). This is in alignment with the progression of skills and knowledge that is rigorous and designed to provide a strong foundation for success in the new, more advanced Algebra I courses that will typically be taken by most students in the ninth grade.

The Los Angeles Unified School District recognizes that some students are able to progress in their mathematical learning at a faster pace. In recognition of this, and in alignment with the Common Core, students are given the opportunity to accelerate their mathematics coursework in sixth and seventh grades, and again in high school.

Accelerated Pathway and Highly Accelerated Pathway

Students completing grade six who demonstrate advanced skills in mathematics may be eligible for placement into the Accelerated Mathematics Pathway beginning in grade seven, or into the Highly Accelerated Mathematics Pathway beginning in grade six. Both of these pathways aim to advance math students who show strong mathematics conceptual understanding, knowledge of procedural skills, fluency, and ability to apply mathematics in a real world context.

Accelerated Mathematics Pathway

In the Accelerated Pathway, three years of math are combined into two math courses: Accelerated CC Math 7 and Accelerated CC Algebra 1. Standards are not cut or skipped but are “compacted” requiring students to learn at a faster pace. Recommendation for placement into the Accelerated Mathematics Pathway is based on a student’s previous marks in mathematics and Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment score.

Highly Accelerated Mathematics Pathway

The Highly Accelerated Pathway is intended for the highest achieving students in mathematics. This pathway begins in grade 6 and combines five years of mathematics into three years: Highly Accelerated CC Math 6/7, Highly Accelerated CC Math 8/Algebra 1, and CC Geometry. As with the Accelerated Pathway, standards are not cut or skipped, they are “compacted”. Students will be identified as eligible for the placement test based on his/her 5th grade marks in mathematics and their score on the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment.

Students will be placed into the Highly Accelerated Pathway only upon meeting the placement criteria and with parent approval. The Highly Accelerated Mathematics Pathway is a highly specialized program enrolling only a very small percentage of students districtwide.