

Four Years of Math



Generally speaking, four years of high school math are not required either for high school graduation or for college entrance. Yet students who take four years of high school mathematics are better prepared for college coursework. Use this planning guide to prepare yourself to meet with your student's counselor or math teacher so, together, you can help your student get the most from his or her high school math experience.



What the Experts Say

- ✦ With effort, every student could be a math person; no one is born a math expert.
- ✦ A strong performance in middle school math prepares students for success in later grades, but it's never too late to improve.
- ✦ Find out what information is used to place students in math classes in your school and make sure the most current test scores are used.
- ✦ Help your student choose the right math courses to achieve college and career goals; there are many pathways to choose from.
- ✦ If students are accelerated too quickly and they have to repeat the class, they do not improve by much.
- ✦ There are many math acceleration and support options available to students during the school year or over the summer. Be sure to ask what has been most successful at your student's school.
- ✦ Performance on the high school state math tests could make a difference in college math course placement. Tell your student to take these assessments seriously.
- ✦ Do not let your student skip math senior year; students who take four years of math in high school can advance more quickly through their college program.



Questions to Ask

- ✦ If my student wants to be ready for college math, what courses should he or she take?
- ✦ What are the requirements for placement in math classes? What is the date of the math placement test?
- ✦ How will you know if my student is ready to accelerate to higher level courses?
- ✦ What successful math support is available for students? Does it take place during school, after or before school, or during the summer? Is there a cost?



Contacts & Important Dates

Counselor or Math Teacher: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Date of math placement test: _____



Helpful Documents

- ✦ Recent test scores
- ✦ Report cards
- ✦ Middle school test scores
- ✦ Middle school report cards
- ✦ Transcript, if available



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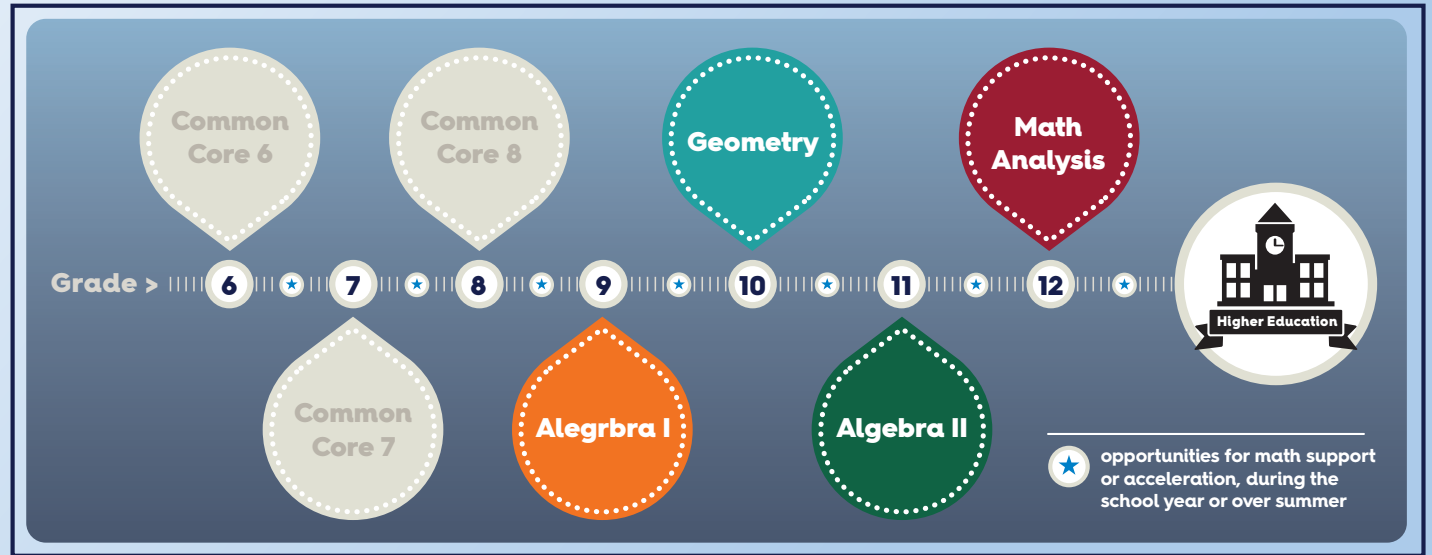


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Use the sample standard high school math pathway below to map out a course of study that matches your student's goals.

Sample Pathway

If your student took the standard math course in each grade beginning in middle school, this would be the pathway to ensure that he or she takes four years of high school math. Acceleration or support to stay on course may be available before, during or after the school day, or over the summer.



Your Student's Pathway

Map your student's path to ensure that he or she completes four years of math in high school. Start with the 12th grade math target and plan the pathway to the target. Consider acceleration or support options to keep your student on track during the summer and school year.

