

2020-2021 Middle School Mathematics Pathways FAQs

Why are students who took a “Pre-Algebra” course this past school year being placed in a “Pre-Algebra” course at the beginning of the year? This class will be a placeholder for these students and will give the teachers the ability to review and assess the students for Algebra readiness as defined by the VDOE.

The email says that a final math placement recommendation will be made “in the fall.” When will a specific timeline be announced? Students will have their final placement early in the Fall (originally scheduled for October but will be moved to an earlier time to accommodate the TJHSST application deadline).

What will the permanent placement options be for students who are placed in classes that are not accelerated? Will they still be able to take Algebra I as 8th graders? Students will have an opportunity to demonstrate readiness for a more advanced course in the Fall. Students who demonstrate gaps in previous grade-level content will be recommended to remain in the grade-level course for the 2020-2021 school year. Regardless of final placement, 6th and 7th graders will still have an opportunity to take Algebra I by grade 8 if they demonstrate readiness.

What will the permanent placement options be for 7th grade students who completed Pre-Algebra for 6th Graders? Will they still be able to take Intensified Algebra I as 7th graders? Many of these children will still take Intensified Algebra I as 7th graders. Only those who are demonstrating challenges will be recommended to continue in Pre-Algebra for 7th Graders.

What will the permanent placement options be for 8th grade students who completed Pre-Algebra for 7th Graders? Will they still be able to take Algebra I as 8th graders? Most of these children will take Algebra I or Intensified Algebra I as 8th graders. Only those who are demonstrating challenges will be recommended to continue in Pre-Algebra for 8th Graders.

What is the criteria for making the final math placement determination? Will parents have a say in the placement? Students will be assessed in order to demonstrate readiness for a more advanced course. Parents will have a say and, if the child is not recommended for the more advanced course, parents will have the opportunity to learn exactly why the child is not being recommended.

Are the options going to be the same whether a student selects the hybrid model or the full-time distance learning model? Yes.

What can students do over the summer? Students may review standards taught this year as well as practice problems offered on the VDOE website and through programs such as Khan Academy and Delta Math. See below for the VDOE released SOL questions.

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/released_tests/index.shtml