



OSA Math Placement Policy

District students shall be provided an opportunity to complete a sequence of mathematics courses recommended for admission into the University of California and California State University systems. In order to ensure the success of every student and to meet the Senate Bill No. 359, the Board of Directors of The Oakland School for the Arts (OSA) adopted the following policy to establish a fair, objective, and transparent mathematics placement policy for students entering 6th and 9th grade beginning with the 2016-2017 school year.

Oakland School for the Arts has developed placement guidelines using Mathematics Diagnostic Testing Project (MDTP) scores, and mathematics grades for prior courses completed. For this purpose, Oakland School for the Arts has updated its math pathway and mathematics placement guidelines for the 2020-2021 school year.

The math placement policy gives students multiple pathways for taking math classes leading up to their ninth-grade year. The policy ensures alignment with statewide requirements geared toward reducing gender, racial and socioeconomic inequality in math courses via the California Mathematics Placement Act of 2015, which first required students to take Algebra 1 in ninth grade.

Students shall be enrolled in mathematics courses based on the placement protocols. No student shall, because of the school's placement protocols, be required to repeat a mathematics course which they have successfully completed.

When a student does not qualify to be enrolled in a higher level mathematics course based on a consideration of the objective measures specified in the placement protocols, they may nevertheless be admitted to the course based on the recommendation of a teacher or counselor who has personal knowledge of the student's academic ability.

The placement protocols shall specify a time within the first month of the school year when students shall be reevaluated to ensure that they are appropriately placed in mathematics courses and shall specify the criteria the district will use to make this determination. Any student found to be misplaced shall be promptly placed in the appropriate mathematics course.

Within 10 school days of an initial placement decision or a placement decision upon reevaluation, a student and their parent/guardian who disagree with the placement of the student may appeal the decision to the Principal or Math Department Chair. That person shall decide whether or not to overrule the placement determination within 10 school days of receiving the appeal. The decision shall be final.

OSA staff shall implement the placement protocols uniformly and without regard to students' race, sex, gender, nationality, ethnicity, socioeconomic background, or other subjective or discriminatory consideration in making placement decisions.

The Principal or Math Department Chair shall ensure that all teachers, counselors, and other district staff responsible for determining students' placement in mathematics courses receive training on the placement protocols.

As part of this policy, OSA has established a process for recourse for each student and their parent/guardian to question the student's placement, as follows:

- a. A parent/legal guardian of any 9th grade student may submit a written request to the High School Principal requesting information on how the student's placement was determined. The Principal will provide the appropriate information within 5 school days.
- b. A parent/legal guardian may request that their student retake the placement test, in which case the Principal will attempt to facilitate the retest within two (2) weeks.
- c. A parent/legal guardian may request that their student based on objective academic measures. If the Principal agrees, the math department head and the child's math teacher will provide the determination as well as the objective academic measures that the Principal relied upon in making the placement determination.
- d. All reasonable attempts will be made to provide a timely and transparent response to parent/guardian requests concerning math placement.
- e. If the parent/guardian is dissatisfied with the student's mathematics placement, they may choose to sign a voluntary waiver requesting that the student be placed in another mathematics course against the professional recommendation of the Principal. If space is available in the other class, the request will be accommodated and the parent/guardian must acknowledge and accept responsibility in writing for this placement.

OSA shall ensure that this mathematics placement policy is posted on its website.

This policy is adopted pursuant to the Mathematics Placement Act of 2015, SB 359, enacted as Education Code Section 51224.7.