

## **Middle School Placement Guidelines for Advanced Students Language Arts, Science, Social Studies**

In order to facilitate placement into advanced classes at the middle school, the District recommends the criteria listed below. Experience has shown that these factors are some of the best indicators for success in advanced coursework. A student's current content teacher should complete the placement recommendation during the spring for the following year. Teachers are encouraged to consider all students (including ESOL, ESE, and children in the AYP subgroups) who have demonstrated abilities in possibly nontraditional ways. For serious consideration for advanced placement, a student must have met the following criteria.

### **Language Arts, Science, Social Studies**

#### **Spring Recommendation**

1. Scored a minimum Achievement Level of 4 on the Reading FCAT 2.0 (most recent results). Students that have scored an Achievement Level of 3 on the Reading FCAT 2.0 (most recent results) may be considered with a strong teacher recommendation.
2. Teacher recommendation would consider areas such as: previous grades, previous Reading FCAT 2.0, consistency in completion and success of assignments, attendance, prior grades on tests, writing samples, and PMP designation.
3. High levels of performance on current Discovery Education Assessments.
4. In addition to above criteria, for **Science** the teacher recommendation should consider areas such as: previous grades, scored a minimum Achievement Level of 4 on the Mathematics FCAT 2.0, consistency in completion and success of assignments, attendance, and prior grades on tests.

#### **Final Recommendation Considerations**

Scored in the 76<sup>th</sup> percentile or above according to the Reading FSA. Students that have scored below the 76<sup>th</sup> percentile according to Reading FSA may be considered with a strong teacher recommendation.

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Parents may disagree with placement recommendations or the process as a whole. When needed, please use the Pasco County Placement Parent Waiver form for these situations.

If a school wants to consider additional changes to these requirements, the school should contact the Office for Teaching and Learning prior to implementation.

## Middle School Math Placement Guidelines for Advanced Students

In order to facilitate placement into an advanced math class at the middle school, the District recommends the criteria listed below. Experience has shown that these factors are some of the best indicators for success in an advanced math class. A student's current math teacher will complete this placement recommendation during spring for the following year. Teachers are encouraged to review all children for this potential (including ESOL, ESE, and children in the AYP subgroups) who have demonstrated mathematics abilities in possibly nontraditional ways. For consideration for advanced math placement, a student must have met a preponderance of the following criteria.

### Spring Recommendation

1. On assessments, maintains a high level of performance (a majority of "A"s).
2. Successfully completes high quality work on a consistent basis and exhibits perseverance.
3. Scored a minimum Achievement Level of 4 on the Mathematics FCAT (most recent results).
4. Scored a level 3 or 4 on each administration of the Discovery Education Benchmark Assessment.
5. Scored "Most-75%-100%" on the Discovery Education Benchmark Assessment for the Domain: Number Operations-Fractions.
6. Received a recommendation from current math teacher.

### Final Recommendation Consideration

Scored in the 76<sup>th</sup> percentile or above according to the Mathematics FSA.

Fourth grade students included in this process need additional screening by the Senior Instructional Specialist for K-6 and 6-12 Mathematics. Double advanced math students (students projected to be placed into a math class two years or more above grade level) are also to be screened by the Senior Instructional Specialist for K-6 and 6-12 Mathematics prior to placement.

Middle schools will make the final placement decision for the students they will be receiving. Parents may disagree with placement recommendations or the process as a whole. When needed, please use the Pasco County Mathematics Placement Parent Waiver form for these situations. Placement results by benchmarks may be shared.

If a school wants to adjust other areas, it is requested that this be discussed with the Senior Instructional Specialist for K-6 and 6-12 Mathematics prior to implementation.

**It is important to note that teachers of advanced mathematics courses are required to not only teach to more depth within the standards, but they also have more standards to cover in their course description.**

- In 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced Mathematics, these teachers are responsible for teaching eight additional standards in comparison to the typical 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics course. These students will be assessed with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Florida Standards Mathematics Assessment.
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade Advanced Mathematics will pick up the remaining 7<sup>th</sup> grade standards and cover the **entire 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum**. These teachers are responsible for covering twenty additional standards in comparison to the typical 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics course. These students will be assessed with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Florida Standards Assessment.

## Pasco County Schools Placement Waiver Request

A student's placement in the content courses is based upon student's performance in his/her current classes, District benchmark assessments, standardized State assessment scores, and a recommendation from his/her current teacher.

This waiver form is used when parents are in disagreement with the school's recommendation for placement of their child in a course sequence. Prior to submitting this letter of waiver, parents are asked to contact his/her child's current teacher to discuss concerns for placement and gather additional information from the teacher. If a parent is still in disagreement with the school's placement recommendation, this waiver form needs to be submitted. Upon submission of this form, every effort will be made to honor the waiver request.

Please remember that waiver requests that are honored require that the student remain in the advanced class chosen. Students placed in an advanced course via a waiver who find the class too difficult may still be asked to continue in the class. Multiple transfers to and from advanced classes will not be allowed.

Please complete the form below and return it to your child's school.

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### Middle School Placement Waiver Request

I am in disagreement with the recommended course placement of my child. I have/have not (circle one) contacted my child's teacher regarding this request. Please place my child in \_\_\_\_\_.  
I realize that I am going against professional recommendations and will be responsible for the results.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade Level

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please return this form to \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ Middle School.