



## **K-8 Math Progression**

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

#### **How does BPS determine who is invited to participate in the Pathway to Mathematics Progression exam?**

BPS will analyze the M-STEP and i-Ready data for all students and identify those students who meet specific criteria that suggests they might be ready for grade level advancement in mathematics.

#### **If my child is invited into the process, are they automatically registered for the assessment?**

No. Children who are invited are not required to take the assessment. If a family elects to have their child participate, they will follow the registration process described by their school.

#### **If my child is not invited into the process, can they still participate?**

Yes! Any BPS student is eligible to take the Pathway to Mathematics Progression exam. Interested families should register for the assessment by following the instructions shared by their school.

#### **What is the Mathematics Progression Assessment (MPA)?**

The MPA is an assessment that covers key mathematical standards for the grade level that the student will be entering into in the fall. The rigorous assessment is housed in the i-Ready platform but is different from the i-Ready Benchmark assessment that students take throughout the school year.

#### **When will my child take the assessment and how long will it take?**

Each school will determine the assessment schedule for their building, but all assessments will take place during the month of May. The assessment will take students between 90-120 minutes, depending on grade level. The assessments will be given during the school day. Results will be shared by the end of the school year.

#### **What happens if my child passes the MPA?**

If your child passes the MPA, they will be eligible to progress a year in mathematics. For example, if your child is currently in 3rd grade and passes the MPA at the end of this year, they will be eligible to progress beyond 4th grade math and be placed in a 5th grade math class in the fall. This means that the child will leave their 4th grade classroom for math and join a 5th grade math class for instruction. Students who are progressing beyond 5th grade math would need to travel to a middle school for math class.

#### **What happens if my child does not pass the MPA?**

Children who do not pass the MPA will be best served in their grade level classroom and will not be eligible to progress a year in mathematics. All assessment results are final, and students will not be eligible to retake the exam. All students will be eligible to engage in the MPA process again in the spring of the following school year.

#### **Is there an additional MPA window in August?**

There will be a very small administration of the MPA in August only for children who have not already taken the MPA and met the Pathway criteria on their Spring 24 M-STEP Assessment. No students who took the MPA in May will be eligible to take it again in August. The August MPA is by invitation only; students will not be able to register to take this assessment. The only window for open registration is in April/May.

### **How should my child prepare for the MPA?**

There is no need for students to study or prepare for the MPA. Research shows that, natural aptitude and existing knowledge are better indicators of success in advanced mathematics than short-term preparation.<sup>1</sup> Additional studies suggest that identifying students for progression based on their innate abilities rather than their ability to study for a specific assessment can lead to more accurate placement decisions and future success.<sup>2</sup>

*1. Colangelo, N., Assouline, S. G., Gross, M. U. M., Templeton Foundation., Connie Belin & Jacqueline N. Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development., & National Association for Gifted Children (U.S.). (2004). A nation deceived: How schools hold back America's brightest students. Iowa City, Iowa: Connie Belin & Jacqueline N. Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development, University of Iowa*

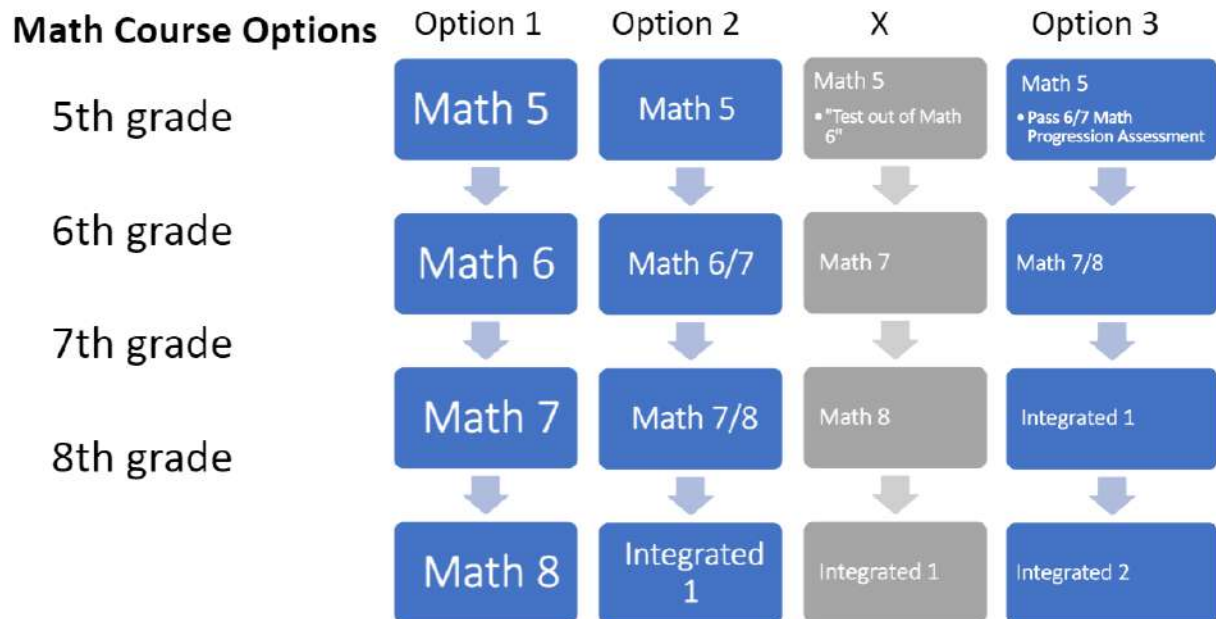
*2. Benbow CP, & Stanley JC (1996). Inequity in equity: How current educational equity policies place able students at risk. Psychology, Public Policy, and Law, 2, 249–293.*

### **Is the Pathway to Mathematics Progression the only way to accelerate math?**

No! In middle school, we offer an accelerated pathway that is open to all students without the need for any further assessment. All incoming 6th grade students can select either Math 6 or Math 6/7 as their 6th grade math course. Students who take Math 6/7 and Math 7/8 in their sixth and seventh grade years will take Integrated 1, a high school level math course, in 8th grade. This means that all BPS students could advance a year in math without ever participating in the Pathway process.

### **How does the Pathway to Mathematics Progression work for incoming 6th grade students?**

All incoming 6th grade students are welcome to elect Math 6 or Math 6/7 as their 6th grade math course. There is no need to take or pass an assessment to register for Math 6/7, as no standards will be skipped in this pathway. An incoming 6th grade student who would like to participate in the Pathway process would take an exam that covers 6th and 7th grade standards, as they would be attempting to progress beyond 6/7 math to be placed directly into 7/8 math. Please see the image below of the pathways available to middle school students.



\*Note: the grey pathway is not available because it has the same outcome as #2

**If my child is currently in Math 6 can they select Math 7/8 as their seventh grade course?**

Because the move from Math 6 to Math 7/8 would result in a student missing some grade 7 content, students who wish to move from Math 6 into Math 7/8 should register for the Math Pathways Assessment. These students will need to demonstrate mastery of the Math 7 standards that are covered in Math 6/7 to register for Math 7/8.

**Can I see examples of how the Pathway to Mathematics Progression works at each grade level?**

Current Grade Level	Example Math Progressions
2nd & 3rd Grade Students	For example, if your child is currently in a 3rd grade math class, they will take an assessment covering 4 <sup>th</sup> grade standards. If they score at least 78% on the MPA, they will qualify to move directly into a 5 <sup>th</sup> grade math class next year.
4th Grade Students	If your child is currently in a 4th grade math class, they will take an assessment covering 5 <sup>th</sup> grade standards. If they score at least 78% on the MPA, they will qualify to move directly into a 6/7 math class next year.
5th Grade Students	If your child is currently in a 5th grade math class, they will take an assessment covering 6th and some 7th grade standards. If they score at least 78% on the MPA, they will qualify to move directly to 7/8 math next year.

6th Grade Students Enrolled in Math 6	If your child is currently in Math 6, they will take an assessment on some 7th grade standards. If they score at least 78% on the MPA, they will move into Math 7/8.
6th Grade Students Enrolled in Math 6/7	If your child is currently enrolled in Math 6/7, they would take an exam covering 8th grade standards. If they score at least 78% on the MPA, they will move directly to Integrated 1.
7th Grade Students Enrolled in Math 7	If your child is currently enrolled in Math 7, they would take an exam covering 8th grade standards. If they score at least 78% on the MPA, they will move directly to Integrated 1.
7th Grade Students Enrolled in Advanced Math (8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math)	If your child is taking an 8th-grade math course, they would follow the test-out policy for high school to progress beyond Integrated 1 and be placed in Integrated 2.