



ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

MATHEMATICS REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

6150.1

Procedure No.

December 14, 1995

Date

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- I. **PURPOSE:** To provide information and guidance regarding mathematics requirements for high school graduation in Prince George's County Public Schools.
- II. **BACKGROUND:** In July 1993, the Maryland State Board of Education approved the implementation of new high school graduation requirements for students who enter Grade 9 for the first time in the 1993-94 school year. These new requirements included new requirements in the area of mathematics. The Board of Education of Prince George's County Public Schools then increased the rigor of the mathematics course requirements that its students must complete prior to graduation from high school.

In 1991, the school system entered into an agreement with the College Board to require students to enroll in Algebra 1 and Geometry as part of their required mathematics program of studies. This agreement requires students who entered Grade 9 in 1992-1993, and every year thereafter, to successfully complete Algebra 1 and Geometry as minimum high school mathematics graduation requirements.

III. **INFORMATION:**

- A. **Mathematics Requirement:** Students who entered Grade 9 for the first time during the 1992-93 school year, and every year thereafter, must enroll in and complete Algebra 1 and Geometry as minimum mathematics courses required for high school graduation. Students will enroll in Algebra 1 no later than Grade 9 and will enroll in Geometry as their subsequent mathematics course.
- B. **Deferrals or Exceptions to the Requirement:** Exceptions to this requirement include the following:
1. Students whose Special Education Individual Plan (IEP) specifies that Algebra I and Geometry are not appropriate components of their educational program, but who meet all other Maryland state graduation requirements with respect to mathematics and other curricular areas may be exempted from the Algebra I/Geometry requirement for high school graduation and are eligible to receive a Maryland high school diploma.
 2. Students who enroll in the Prince George's County Public School System at the beginning of Grade 12 from another school system that has not required Algebra and Geometry, but who meet all other Maryland state graduation requirements with respect to mathematics and other curricular areas may be *exempted* from the Algebra I and/or Geometry requirement for high school graduation and are eligible to receive a Maryland high school diploma.



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3. Students who enroll in the Prince George's County Public School System at the beginning of Grade from another school system that has not required Algebra and Geometry, and who still need to meet the Maryland state graduation requirements with respect to mathematics should be enrolled in Algebra or Geometry, based upon the coursework they have completed in their former school system.
4. A deferral from the mathematics requirement for high school graduation is not an exemption from the Algebra I/Geometry requirement for graduation. It is only a delay in the mathematics course enrollment and completion status for students.

If a deferral from the requirement that students enroll in Algebra I at the beginning of Grade 9 is sought for any student, the following steps must be taken:

- a. The request must be reviewed and approved by the Middle School Mathematic Department Chairperson, Guidance Chairperson, the middle school's School Instructional Team (SIT) and the Principal.
 - b. Any student for whom this deferral has been authorized must have that information included in his/her cumulative record, along with documentation of mathematics assistance that has been provided for the student. Additionally, a plan of future assistance that is recommended, including the sequence of courses that will move the student toward enrollment in and completion of Algebra I and Geometry, must be developed and reviewed with parents/guardians.
 - c. Middle and high schools must keep a listing of names and student numbers of all such students on file in a centralized location. A copy of this list must be sent to the Chief Divisional Administrator for Instruction.
5. If a deferral from the requirement that students enroll in Algebra 1 at the equivalent of the second semester of Grade 9 is sought for any student, the following steps must be taken:
 - a. The request must be reviewed and approved by the high school Mathematics Teacher Coordinator, Guidance Chairperson, the high school's School Instructional Team (SIT) and the Chief Educational Administrator/Principal.
 - b. Any student for whom this deferral has been authorized must have that mathematics assistance that has been provided for the student. Additionally, a plan of future assistance that will be proved,



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- including the sequence of courses that will move the student toward completion of Algebra I and Geometry, must be developed.
- c. High schools must keep a listing of names and student numbers of all such students on file in a centralized location, and send a copy of this list to the Chief Divisional Administrator for Instruction.
6. A request to continue to defer a student from enrollment in Algebra during Grade 10 is subject to the same review and record keeping procedures as described in 5.(a), 5.(b), and 5.(c) above.
 7. Students who participate successfully in summer mathematics academics or other summer programs must be enrolled in the appropriate mathematics course at the beginning of the next school year, irrespective of prior approval to defer Algebra or Geometry enrollment.
 8. Waivers from local graduation requirements require the approval of the Superintendent of Schools or the Superintendent's designee. Waivers from the mathematics requirement for high school graduation may not be sought until a student has successfully completed Grade 11, but must be requested no later than the end of the first marking period of Grade 12. If a waiver of the graduation requirement that students must complete Algebra I and/or Geometry as minimum mathematics graduation requirements is sought for individual students other than those described in B.(1) and B.(2) above, the following steps must be taken:
 - a. The request must be reviewed by and have the approval of the School Instructional Team (SIT), the parents/guardians of the student, and the Chief Educational Administrator/Principal. The request for waiver must include the student's name, student number, reasons for the request, documentation of special support and assistance already provided, and future assistance planned for the student.
 - b. Following approval by SIT and the CEA/ Principal, the request must be sent to the Chief Divisional Administrator for Instruction for approval. Final approval of the request to waive the Algebra and/or Geometry graduation requirement, except in the case of a special education student or a transfer student who meets the requirements in B.(2) will be made by the appropriate Deputy Superintendent.
 - c. A copy of the documentation in 8.(a) and 5.(b) must be maintained in the student's cumulative record.
 - d. The school must keep a listing of the names and student numbers of all students who have received approval for waiver from the



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Algebra and/or Geometry requirement on file in a centralized location.

The mathematics enrollment status of all students will be maintained in the official database of Prince George's County Public Schools. Additionally, students who have received approval for waiver of the Algebra I and/or Geometry mathematics requirement for high school graduation must have that information recorded on their PDS card.

The school system will provide labels indicating that approval of the waiver has been granted. These labels must be affixed to the PDS card.

Note: Any student for whom a waiver of the Algebra I and Geometry Mathematics requirements is granted must meet all other Maryland State graduation requirements with respect to mathematics and other curricular areas to receive a Maryland High School diploma.

- C. **Mathematics Support Programs:** A variety of school-based mathematics support programs have been developed to help students succeed in learning the skills and concepts needed for successful completion of Algebra and Geometry. Examples of school-based support programs include: companion mathematics labs, school-based small group tutorial programs, peer study groups, computer assisted instruction, and after-school programs. *Each school must design and provide appropriate mathematics support programs for students within that school.*

Students also may participate in mathematics support programs which are provided by the school system. Examples of such programs are Saturday School and Summer School.

- D. **Credit for Mathematics Lab Courses**
All mathematics lab courses carry mathematics credit. However, unless otherwise specified by the student's IEP or individualized program of assistance referenced in Section "B", only one of the three mathematics credits required for graduation may be mathematics lab credit.
- E. **Other Mathematics Requirements:** State graduation requirements for mathematics specify that all students must pass the Maryland Functional Mathematics Test and earn three mathematics credits that include algebraic and geometric concepts.



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Additional Prince George's County Public Schools' graduation requirements specify Algebra I and Geometry as two of the three required courses in mathematics.

- IV. **RELATED PROCEDURES:** Administrative Procedure 6150, Student Enrollment in Courses and Educational Options in Secondary Schools.
- V. **MAINTENANCE AND UPDATE OF THESE PROCEDURES:** These procedures originate with the Division of Instruction and will be reviewed annually and updated as required.
- VI. **CANCELLATIONS AND SUPERSEDES:** This procedure supersedes all other writings of an earlier date on this general subject.
- VII. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** September 1, 1995.

Approved by:
Jerome Clark
Superintendent of Schools