

Mathematics Readiness Guidelines

In general, students should be ready for the next level of math if they have successfully completed the previous math course and have obtained a level of proficient or advanced on the STAR exam.

For middle school students, here are some general guidelines (there are always exceptions), using STAR results:

Incoming 6th grade:

Advanced—Pre-Algebra or equivalent (an exceptional math student)

Proficient—Regular 6th grade math

Basic and Below—Regular 6th grade math recommended with remediation of low skills

Incoming 7th grade:

Advanced - Algebra 1 (an exceptional math student)

Proficient—Pre-Algebra

Basic and Below—May retake 6th grade math, and/or use standards-based curriculum, and/or contact Math Specialist for recommendations

Incoming 8th grade:

Advanced or Proficient—Algebra 1 (Geometry if have already successfully completed Algebra 1)

Basic and Below Basic—Pre-Algebra

Far Below Basic—Basic Math (6th grade standards)

9th - 12th Grades:

Proficient or Advanced

Students who have successfully completed their previous math course and have scored Proficient or Advanced on the STAR exam are generally ready to move on to the next course. (A readiness test or placement test—see below—may also help to determine if a student needs to do some remedial work before moving on).

Basic and Below

For the lower-level math students, Pre-algebra and Algebra 1 are the courses that contain the basic skills and concepts needed to pass the high school exit exam. (The CAHSEE is comprised mainly of standards from these two courses). Since Algebra 1 is also a graduation requirement, high school students should get started on this course as soon as possible. A "double period" of math may be beneficial to these students, where they have a core math program and then an additional "support" class. The support may be an on-line course or software program, or an enrichment program. See "Ideas for Math Support and Enrichment".

Additional Assessment Tools

Mathematics Diagnostic Testing Project (MDTP)—This joint effort by the UC and CSU systems has created readiness tests for all levels of math from Pre-algebra to Calculus. These tests can be borrowed from the learning centers and answer sheets can be printed from Edusoft. Though there is no exact cut score to indicate readiness, a score of 70% is a fairly good indicator that a student is ready for that particular level of math. (For younger students, a higher percentage is recommended to take a class above their grade level). The Edusoft score report will break down the score into performance bands for different content areas. This will show areas of strength and areas of weakness, which can also be used to guide summer study.

Publishers Placement Tests

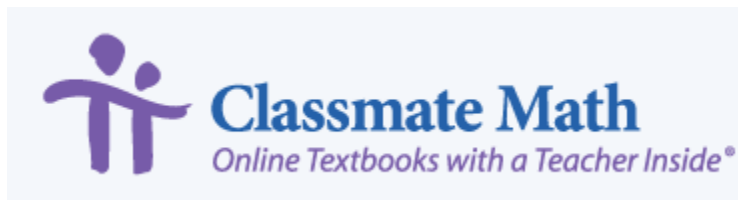
It's always a good idea to use the placement exam prepared by the publisher of the curriculum you're planning on using. Not all publishers have them, but if they do, they may be free and it may be possible to download them from their website. Here are a few:

Singapore Math -- <http://singaporemath.com/placement.htm#PLACEMENT%20PMS>

Saxon Publishers --

<http://saxonpublishers.harcourtachieve.com/HA/resourcelist.aspx?SRC1=37&SRC6=&SRC7=&SRC4=&SRC9=&CAP=2>

Ideas for Math Support and Enrichment



Complete courses on CD-rom or online for Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, and Geometry. Each lesson is a video of an instructor presenting the lesson. www.classmatemath.com



A skills-mastery program offered at various locations.

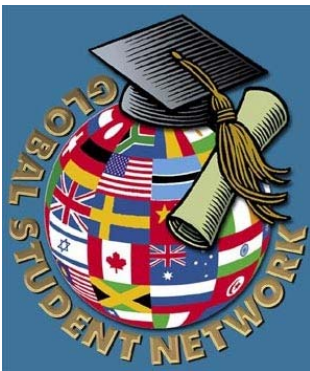
www.kumon.com



Short, animated video lessons on many topics from grades 5 through Algebra 1 and some topics in Geometry. www.brainpop.com



An interactive, web-based tutorial for math courses from arithmetic to PreCalculus, including the CAHSEE. Fairly good reading skills are needed. www.aleks.com



Web-based curriculum. Graphics and lessons are good. Fairly good reading skills are needed. www.globalstudentnetwork.com