

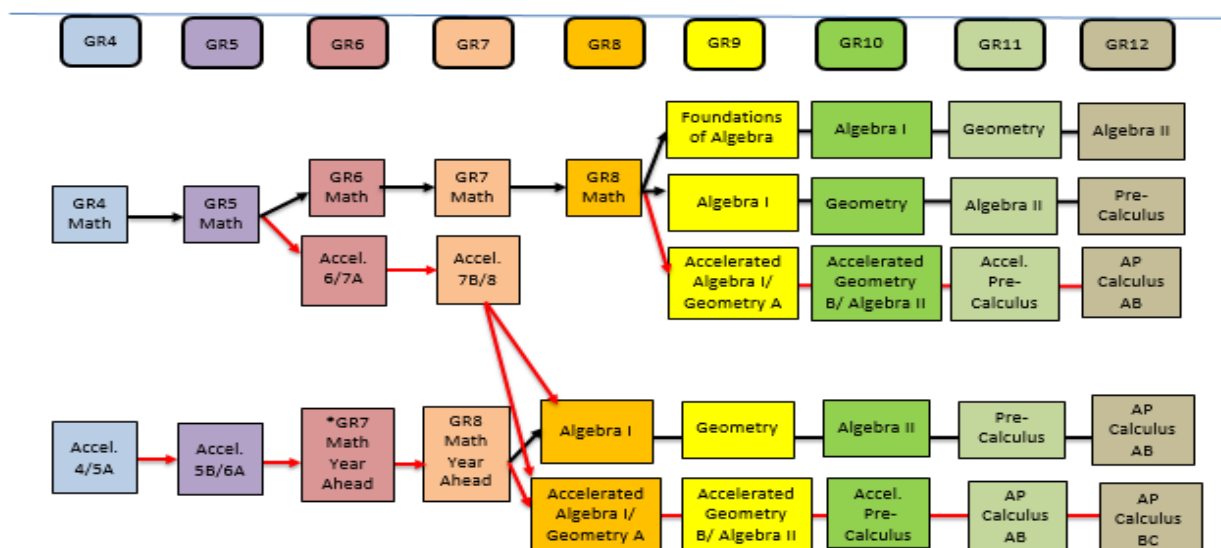
ACCELERATED MATHEMATICS FAQ SHEET

2017-2018

1. What is the district's mathematics course progression?

The district's math progression has two pathways: standard and an accelerated, which begins in Gr. 4.

4th – 12th MATH PROGRESSION



2. Is the Accelerated Mathematics Pathway offered at each school?

Exercising flexibility and autonomy, each school/cluster makes the determination as to whether an Accelerated Mathematics Pathway is offered. Schools/clusters that opt to offer an Accelerated Pathway must utilize the placement criteria to identify the students who are prepared to engage in such cognitively demanding content.

3. What does the Accelerated Mathematics Pathway look like at the elementary level?

Students participating in the Accelerated (formerly Advanced) Pathway are provided with the opportunity to master the curriculum at a much deeper level, and at a faster pace, through the use of differentiated instructional resources to support their learning. This pathway is designed to support the mathematical abilities of our most talented and motivated students.

- **Accelerated** mathematics courses are designed for mathematically talented students and lead to Advanced or Accelerated math courses in middle school. These courses include grade-level standards, which are enhanced by highly complex tasks. Students suited for the accelerated progression are deep thinkers and are able to conceptually understand and apply concepts in

mathematics. Students in the accelerated progression are required to master multiple grade level's mathematics standards during the span of the school year. To prevent gaps in instruction while providing meaningful opportunities for acceleration and differentiation, Accelerated mathematics courses are offered only to 4th and 5th grade students.

- **Accelerated 4th Grade Mathematics**
 - This course covers the full battery of the 4th grade standards, plus selected standards that represent the major work of the 5th grade.
 - Students will take the Georgia Milestones EOG for 4th grade.
- **Accelerated 5th Grade Mathematics**
 - This course covers the remaining 5th grade standards, plus selected standards that represent the major work of the 6th grade.
 - Students will take the Georgia Milestones EOG for 5th grade.

4. *What is the difference between the Accelerated Mathematics Pathway from elementary school and the Accelerated Mathematics Pathways that my child will encounter in middle school?*

Both Accelerated Pathways include above-level course work. The specific difference is in the selection of content. In elementary, the additional curriculum consists of select standards from the next grade level that allow for an extension of ideas in each unit. In middle, the curriculum is compressed so students are able to complete at least four math courses before entering high school.

5. *What criteria will be used to determine if students qualify for Accelerated Mathematics?*

The APS Mathematics Placement Criteria are used to support the classroom teacher's determination of a student's placement into the courses. The criteria take into consideration a student's performance on the Georgia Milestones EOG/EOC assessment, as well as his/her mathematics disposition, course grades, and STAR/CAAS scores.

If your child is being considered for movement in the middle of the school year, he or she will be assessed based on his/her conceptual understanding of the content that will remain uncovered due to the new placement.

5. *Can my child opt out of the Georgia Milestones Assessment?*

The state does not allow for opt-out opportunities under IHE-R(1). The APS Board of Education policy for Promotion and Retention is in support of the state law. If the penalty of retention is enforced students may not be considered for acceleration.

6. *Does participation in Accelerated Mathematics in elementary school guarantee that a student will have an opportunity to participate in accelerated courses in middle school?*

No, it does not. Due to the cognitive demand of the compressed standards in middle school, and to ensure that students are fully prepared to master such standards with the greatest probability for success, they are required to re-qualify for participation in the Accelerated Pathway.

7. If a student does not participate in Accelerated Mathematics in 4th, 5th, or 8th grade, will he/she have an opportunity to participate in the accelerated pathway?

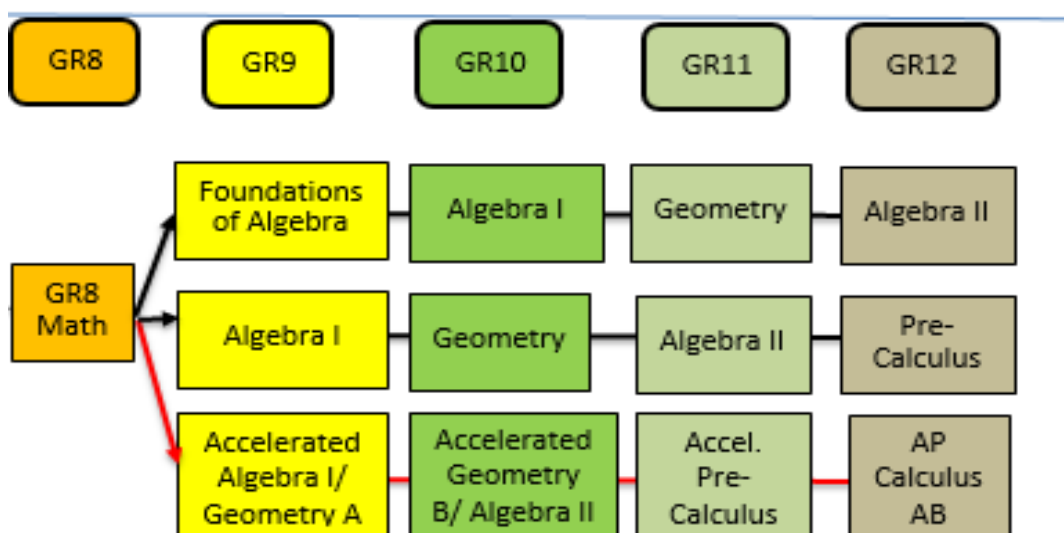
Yes! As students develop and build their mathematical skill set, their readiness for accelerated instruction may shift. Thus, the APS Mathematics Placement Criteria provide multiple options for students to enter an accelerated pathway, contingent upon the qualifications being met. For example, students who are entering high school after taking Gr. 8 Math and meeting the criteria for placement in the Accelerated Pathway may participate in Accelerated Algebra-I/Geometry-A in the 9th grade.

8. What if a student experiences difficulty with the pace and content of the Accelerated Mathematics course?

If it is determined that a student is not experiencing success in the Accelerated Pathway, after further opportunities have been explored, he/she may be moved to the on-grade-level course. A parent conference should be held to discuss student's performance and level of success.

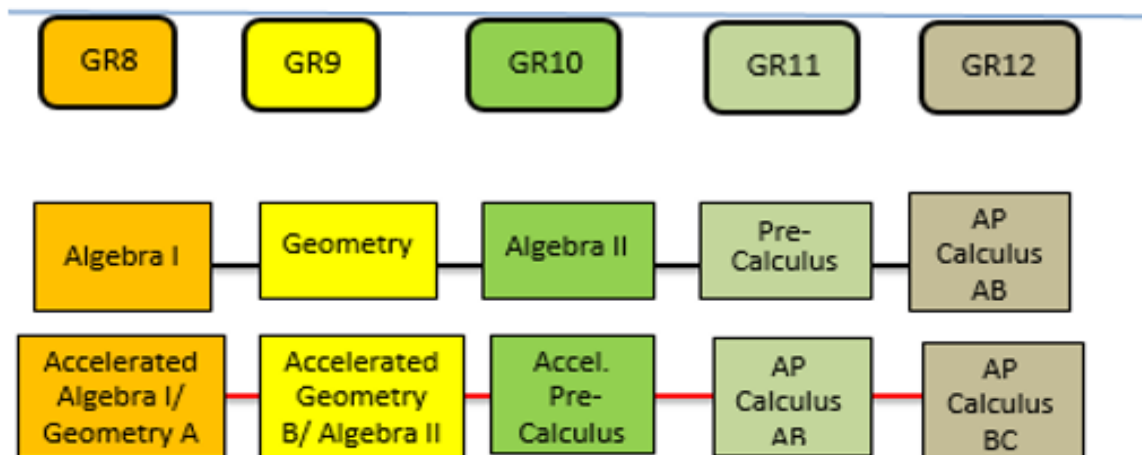
9. If a student is in GSE Grade 8 Math, what is the highest math course that he/she could complete by the end of 12th grade?

A student entering high school (9th grade) after completing Grade 8 Math may take Algebra-I or Accelerated Algebra-I/Geometry-A, contingent upon the qualifications being met. By 12th grade, he/she could potentially complete AP Calculus-AB or AP Statistics as reflected in the standard APS sequence below for progressing through high school math courses.



10. Is it possible for a student to be on track to take Calculus in high school by his/her junior year?

Yes, it is possible. By 11th grade, a student who wishes to major in a STEM-related field of study in college could potentially complete AP Calculus-AB by taking the following sequence of courses:



Please note that there are additional pathways that lead to this same outcome.

11. What are the math requirements for admission to the USG system?

The USG system requires at least 4 credits of mathematics to be eligible for admission; please see the two scenarios below:

Scenario # 1	GSE Algebra-I	GSE Geometry	GSE Adv. Algebra/Algebra-II	A 4 th -year math option from approved course list or approved college-level dual enrollment/MOWR math course
Scenario #2	GSE Accelerated Algebra-I/Geometry-A	GSE Accelerated Geometry-B/Algebra-II	GSE Accelerated Pre-Calculus	A 4 th -year math option from approved course list or approved college-level dual enrollment/MOWR math course