



Dear Principal Colleagues:

As we continue to prepare our students to graduate college and career ready, we would like to provide you with additional tools on upcoming enhancements to the District's mathematics program as part of the transition to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

With the shift to the new standards, new math courses have been developed that align to CCSS. The new math standards build on the best of existing standards and reflect the skills and knowledge students need to succeed in college, career and life after graduation. Additionally, with the new math standards, middle school and high school students will complete either traditional or accelerated math pathways, depending on their competency level and readiness.

You can find the contents of this toolkit and future toolkits on the Superintendent's webpage on the lausd.net website.

Thank you for your continuous leadership at your school sites, and for all that you do to help each-and-every LAUSD student achieve.



[Message Points for Parents/Community](#)

*\*Can also be used as Informational Handouts*



[FAQs for Parents/Community](#)



[Flyer on Math Pathways Overview](#)



[Parent Letter Template](#)



[ConnectEd Template](#)



[School-based Communications](#)

# LAUSD Secondary Math Pathways

## Common Core State Standards

### Message Points for Parents/Community

- In the 2014-15 school year, every LAUSD classroom will use the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in math.
- The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) initiative is a state-led effort to establish a set of clear, consistent educational standards in kindergarten through 12th grade.
- New math courses have been developed that align to these new standards.
- Mastery of these standards will prepare students for college-level math and success in today's workforce.
- California adopted these new standards in 2010. The 2014-15 school year is a "transition year" for the new math courses, as it is the first year the new CCSS-aligned courses will be taught across the District.
- The Common Core State Standards for mathematics build on the best of existing standards and reflect the skills and knowledge students need to succeed in college, career, and life after graduation.
- There are three major shifts in mathematics under the new standards:
  1. **Greater focus on fewer topics:** Rather than covering many topics in a mile-wide, inch-deep curriculum, the standards significantly narrow and deepen learning in the classroom. This focus will help students gain strong foundations, and the ability to apply the math they learn to solve problems inside and outside the classroom.
  2. **Coherence** – or interconnection – **to link topics and thinking:** Math is a body of knowledge made up of interconnected concepts. Therefore, the standards are designed around coherent, or connected, progressions within each grade and from grade-to-grade. This means that learning is carefully connected, so students can build new understanding on top of the foundations built in previous lessons or years.
  3. **Increased rigor:** What do we mean by *rigor*? Rigor calls for a deep command of mathematical concepts, not making math harder. To help students meet the new standards, teachers will pursue three aspects of rigor: (1) conceptual understanding, (2) procedural skills and fluency, and (3) application.



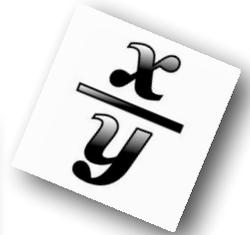
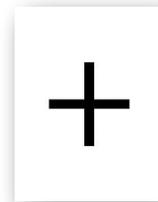
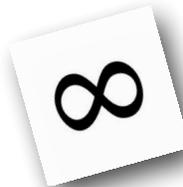
# LAUSD Secondary Math Pathways

## Common Core State Standards

### Message Points for Parents/Community - Continued

- As part of this transition, the content, order, and titles of secondary math courses will be slightly different than previous courses to align to the new standards.
- The names of the new math courses will reflect the content and progression changes brought on by aligning to the new standards.
- Most secondary students will complete the following courses:

Common Core (CC) Math 6  
Common Core (CC) Math 7  
Common Core (CC) Math 8  
Common Core (CC) Algebra 1  
Common Core (CC) Geometry  
Common Core (CC) Algebra 2



- With CCSS, some higher concepts are introduced in earlier grades. For example, some standards that were previously in the former Algebra 1 are now in Common Core Math 8, and standards previously in former Algebra 2 are now in CC Algebra 1.
- With the new standards, middle school and high school students will complete either traditional or accelerated math pathways, depending on their competency level and readiness. Other pathways are available as well.
- All students will have the opportunity to take higher mathematics courses, such as Pre-Calculus, AP Statistics and Probability, AP Calculus AB and Calculus BC.
- New math assessments will be given to students as part of the new Common Core State Standards, including the Smarter Balanced Assessments.
- The next few years will be exciting as we learn about all the new opportunities available through these new standards, and as we raise the bar on what it means to graduate all of our students college-prepared and career-ready.
- For more information, please talk to your child's math teacher and counselor, and visit LAUSD's website resources at:
  - <http://achieve.lausd.net/ccss>
  - <http://achieve.lausd.net/math>

## LAUSD Math Pathways

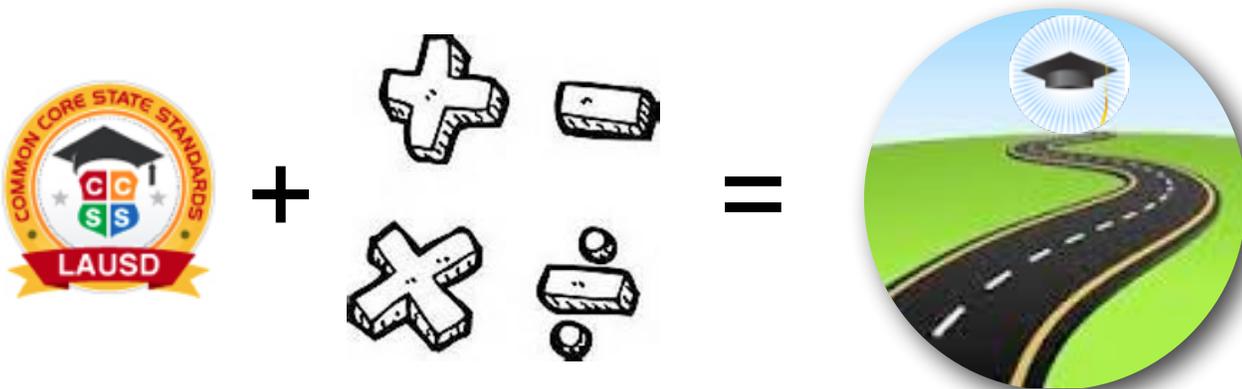
# Charting the Course for Success in Mathematics

Starting in the 2014-15 school year, secondary math courses will be aligned to the new **Common Core State Standards**.

The new math standards **build on the best of existing** standards and reflect the skills and knowledge students need to succeed in **college, career, and life** after graduation.

There are three major shifts in the new math standards:

1. **Focus** on fewer topics to help students go deeper in their learning
2. **Coherence** – or interconnection – to link topics and thinking across grades to help students make important connections throughout their learning
3. **Rigor**. What do we mean by *rigor*? Rigor calls for a deep command of math concepts to help students with understanding, skills and application of math



## Preparing LAUSD Students For College and Career



# **LAUSD Secondary Math Pathways**

## **Common Core State Standards**

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

#### **What are the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)?**

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) initiative is a state-led effort to establish a set of clear, consistent educational standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and math in kindergarten through 12th grade.



#### **When will LAUSD transition to CCSS?**

California adopted these new standards in 2010. The 2014-15 school year is a “transition year” for the new math courses, as it is the first year the new CCSS-aligned courses will be taught across the District.

#### **What’s changing with the new math standards?**

As part of this transition, the content, order, and titles of secondary math courses will be slightly different to align to the new standards. Mastery of these standards will prepare students for college-level math, and success in today’s workforce.

#### **Will any of the math skills, concepts or subjects that are currently taught be “left out” of the new standards?**

Absolutely not. The new math standards build on the best of existing standards and reflect the skills and knowledge students need to succeed in college, career, and life after graduation.

#### **What are the three major shifts in mathematics?**

1. **Focus** on fewer topics to help students go deeper in their learning.
2. **Coherence** – or interconnection – to link topics and thinking across grades to help students make important connections throughout their learning.
3. **Rigor**. What do we mean by *rigor*? Rigor calls for a deep command of math concepts to help students with understanding, skills and application of math.

#### **How will the success and effectiveness of the new math standards be measured?**

Teachers, administrators, and support staff at LAUSD, as well as within California and from states across the nation will work together to monitor the success of the new standards. New assessments aligned to CCSS were field tested in a practice run in the spring of 2013-14. These new assessments are called the Smarter Balanced Assessments and will be fully rolled out to all LAUSD schools in 2014-15.

# LAUSD Secondary Math Pathways

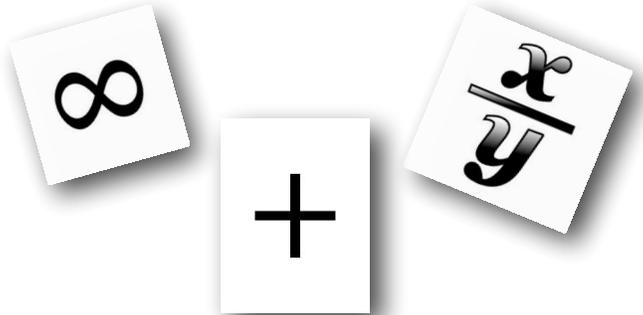
## Common Core State Standards

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), Cont.

#### **What math courses will my child take in the 2014-15 school year?**

Most secondary students will complete the following courses, depending on their competency and grade level:

- Common Core (CC) Math 6
- Common Core (CC) Math 7
- Accelerated CommonCore (CC) Math 7 AB
- Common Core (CC) Math 8
- Common Core (CC) Algebra 1
- Accelerated Common Core (CC) Algebra 1
- Common Core (CC) Geometry
- Common Core (CC) Algebra 2



#### **How will my child be placed in the appropriate math class for 2015-16?**

To help determine class placement, students will take new assessments this spring, including the Middle School Mathematics Placement Assessment for 6th grade students, and the Algebra 1 Summative Assessment for middle school students currently enrolled in CC Algebra 1 or Accelerated CC Algebra 1. The results of these assessments, along with other information (such as final course grade in the student's previous math course), will be used to decide the appropriate course the student should be enrolled in for the 2015-16 school year.

#### **What are my child's options for more advanced math learning?**

With the new standards, middle school and high school students will complete either traditional or accelerated math pathways, depending on their competency level and readiness. Other pathways are available as well.

•**Most students** will be enrolled in the Traditional Pathway, and will complete CC Math 6, CC Math 7, CC Math 8, CC Algebra 1, CC Geometry and CC Algebra 2

•**Some students** will be enrolled in the Accelerated Pathway, or "advanced" pathway and will complete:

- Middle school Option: CC Math 6, Accelerated CC Math 7, Accelerated CC Algebra 1
- High School Option: CC Algebra 1, CC Geometry, Honors Advanced Mathematics

#### **What are Accelerated Pathways for math?**

Accelerated Pathways will give qualified students the opportunity to reach AP Calculus at a faster pace. Additional pathways will also be available for students interested in advanced math courses such as Statistics and Probability.

# **LAUSD Secondary Math Pathways**

## **Common Core State Standards**

### **Parent/Guardian Letter Template**

***If you feel it beneficial, please copy and paste the letter template below onto your school letterhead and distribute to your parents/guardians. [Click here](#) to download Word DOC.***

Dear Parents and Guardians,

At [INSERT SCHOOL NAME], we are committed to providing all of our students the high-quality education they deserve. To support this, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) is transitioning to higher educational standards called the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

These standards establish clear expectations for what students should learn in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. LAUSD will be fully implementing the new standards in every classroom during the 2014-2015 school year.

With the shift to the new standards, new math courses have been developed in our secondary schools to align to CCSS. The new math standards build on the best of existing standards and reflect the skills and knowledge students need to succeed in college, career, and life after graduation. Most secondary students will complete the following courses:

- Common Core (CC) Math 6
- Common Core (CC) Math 7
- Common Core (CC) Math 8
- Common Core (CC) Algebra 1
- Common Core (CC) Geometry
- Common Core (CC) Algebra 2

With CCSS, some higher concepts are introduced in earlier grades. For example, some standards that were previously in the former Algebra 1 are now in Common Core Math 8, and standards previously in former Algebra 2 are now in CC Algebra 1.

Additionally, middle school and high school students will complete either traditional or accelerated math pathways, depending on their competency level and readiness. Please speak with your child's math teacher and counselor about the best option for your child.

With the support of administrators, teachers, and parents, these standards will raise the bar on learning and better prepare our students for college-level math, and success in tomorrow's workforce. For more information, please talk to your child's math teacher, or visit LAUSD's resources at: [achieve.lausd.net/ccss](http://achieve.lausd.net/ccss) and [achieve.lausd.net/math](http://achieve.lausd.net/math).

Sincerely,

[PRINCIPAL NAME]

# **LAUSD Secondary Math Pathways**

*Common Core State Standards*

## **Parent ConnectEd Script Template**

*If you feel it beneficial, please insert your school name and use this template as a guide for a Blackboard Connect phone script to record and send to your parents/guardians. [Click here](#) to download Word DOC.*

- Hello, this is [NAME], principal of [SCHOOL NAME].
- At [INSERT SCHOOL NAME], we are committed to providing every one of our students the high-quality education they deserve.
- To support this, the Los Angeles Unified School District is transitioning to the new Common Core State Standards, which will be used in all classrooms beginning in the 2014-15 school year.
- With the shift to the new standards, new math courses have been developed that align to CCSS.
- The new math standards build on the best of existing standards and reflect the skills and knowledge students need to succeed in college, career, and life after graduation.
- With the support of administrators, teachers, and parents, these standards will raise the bar on learning to better prepare our students for college-level math, and success in today's workforce.
- For more information, please talk to your child's math teacher, and visit LAUSD's resources at: **achieve.lausd.net/ccss** and **achieve.lausd.net/math**.
- Thank you for your time and attention.

# ***LAUSD Secondary Math Pathways***

## ***Common Core State Standards***

### **School-Based Communications**

#### **Marquee Suggestions:**

- School Name is raising the bar for all students to achieve.
- School Name is preparing students for college, career, and life after graduation.
- School Name is helping our students master the new Common Core State Standards in math for success in college and career.

#### **Website or Newsletter suggestions:**

- School Name is transforming the classroom through the Common Core State Standards in math.
- At School Name, our students are math masters with the Common Core State Standards.
- Math is the universal language. At School Name, our students are fluent!
- The new Common Core State Standards in math build on the best of existing standards and reflect the skills and knowledge students need to succeed in college, career, and life after graduation.



#### ***Where to use these message points:***

- Marquee
- Website
- Newsletter