



Walled Lake Consolidated Schools

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Educational Service Center
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Date: February 2019
Subject: Math Course-Skipping Procedures

Parents,

Our current math standards are more rigorous and demanding than ever. Students are expected to develop a deep understanding of concepts leading to fluency with facts and procedures, and the ability to clearly communicate their mathematical thinking. Further, students must pass a demanding sequence of high school math courses in order to meet graduation requirements. In response to the increased expectations for all students, we have adjusted the content focus and instructional approaches in all of our math courses.

Because of the higher standards and to ensure student success at all points of their mathematical education, we are using the procedures described below to accelerate students. In order to skip a course in the math sequence, students must demonstrate proficiency in the content and skills of the course they would be skipping.

The process and procedures described on the following page apply to all students currently in grades 2 through 7. Students attempting to test-out of high school courses will use the existing process described on the district website. Parents of students in kindergarten and first grade who have indications their child is possibly ready to skip a year of Math should contact their building principal.

If you have questions after reviewing the process, please contact your building principal or me.

Thank you for your partnership in education.

Sincerely,

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Overview of Math Course-Skipping Process

Considerations and Suggested Criteria for Testing

To avoid student frustration, thoughtful consideration should come before registering students for above grade-level Math testing. High-levels of success in the current Math course, while important, is not the primary indicator of students successful with Math course-skipping tests.

Our data shows that students who are successful in skipping an entire year of Math typically spend extra time outside the school day engaged in Mathematical exercises; either with online courses, after-school programs, or with tutors knowledgeable about the grade-level standards and progressions.

Before pursuing the opportunity to test-out of a course, students should achieve at least one of the following suggested criteria:

- Level 4 (Advanced Proficient) on M-STEP Math test from previous Spring
- Above grade-level proficiency indication from current year *i-Ready* diagnostic tests

Test Structure

There are two parts to the test. Students must pass **Part 1** in order to take **Part 2**. **Part 1** of the test will be given afterschool at your student's current building. **Part 1** of the test is given online for grades 3 and above. Students who demonstrate proficiency (at least 80% correct) on **Part 1**, will need to take **Part 2** of the test at the Educational Services Center (E.S.C. district offices on Ladd Road). You will be notified of the test results via email.

Testing Location-Taking Part 1

Part 1 of the test will occur after school at your student's current building. Dates will be added to this letter when established. Testing will begin ten minutes after dismissal. The test will take one hour. Transportation is the family's responsibility.

Building	Date
Commerce	4/15
Dublin	4/22
Glengary	4/10
Guest	4/17
Hickory Woods	4/09
Keith	4/16

Building	Date
Loon Lake	4/15
Meadowbrook	4/17
Oakley Park	4/11
Pleasant Lake	4/11
Walled Lake	4/09
Wixom	4/18

Building	Date
Sarah Banks	4/10
Clifford Smart	4/12

Building	Date
James Geisler	4/22
Walnut Creek	4/18

Testing Period

To ensure we can accommodate your student's application, **parents must sign-up no later than Thursday, March 28th**. Registration will open on March 1st.

Online registration is preferred. If you are unable to access the online form, a paper copy of the application available in your building's office on March 1st. Each part of the course-skipping test will take one hour to complete.

Students must be registered in advance to participate.

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Taking Part 2

Students eligible to take **Part 2** of the test will be notified via email no later than April 25th after the scoring of **Part 1**. **Part 2** will be given at the Educational Services Center on one of the dates shown below.

- Current Middle School (and Oakley Park) students test from 3:30-4:30 PM
- Current Elementary students test from 4:30-5:30 PM

TEST DATES FOR STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR TAKING PART 2
Wednesday, May 8th or **Monday, May 13th**

Required Criteria

Students must pass both parts of the opt-out test for the course they are attempting to skip, with at least 80% correct on each part.

Results

Scores will be available to parents, students, principals, and counselors after the testing period (by May 23rd).

Retesting

Students who have scored at least 60% correct, but less than 80% correct on **Part 1** or **Part 2**, may make an appointment to retest for a higher score.

This must occur during a testing window in mid-August and will take place at the Education Services Center (E.S.C.). Parents may request a copy of the i-Ready diagnostic report to indicate areas needing further development and as additional justification of course-skipping recommendation.

Students new to the district

If interested, newly enrolled students will need to make arrangements to take the opt-out tests at the Educational Services Center.

Deadlines

- Opt-out attempts must be completed before the beginning of the school-year.
- No course-skipping tests will occur after the school year begins, with the exception of students new to the district.

Resources

- Standards assessed are from the grade-level students would be skipping and are available at the bottom of this [website \(https://goo.gl/7RvQGa\)](https://goo.gl/7RvQGa) and at the following [link \(https://goo.gl/9ThR7W\)](https://goo.gl/9ThR7W).
- Additional preparation materials will not be provided.