

Virtual Curriculum and Achievement Subcommittee Report
Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.
Broadcast from the Media Arts Studio
454 Broadway, Cambridge, MA

Called for for the purpose of discussing the upper schools math curriculum and programs. This meeting is expected to end by or before 6:30 p.m.

Subcommittee Members Present: Richard Harding (Co-Chair), David Weinstein (Co-Chair), Elizabeth Hudson

Other School Committee Members Present: Vice Chair Hunter

Also Present: Dr. Lendozia Edwards, Chief of Academics; Siobahn Mulligan, Director of Mathematics; Dr. Chad Leith, Director of Professional Learning & Leadership

The meeting started at 5:02 pm. **Co-Chair Harding** made opening remarks and the Confidential Secretary read the Call of the Meeting. **Co-Chair Weinstein** made opening remarks as well.

The floor was passed to Ms. Mulligan who gave the following presentation that can be found on this [website](#).

The presentation covered the following topics:

- Goal for Algebra 1 Integration Working Group:
Our goal is to ensure equitable access and challenge in Tier 1 K-7, so that all students are prepared for the Algebra 1 offering in 8th grade at CPS upper schools.
- Algebra 1 Integration Plan
- Pre-Plan/Before SY 23-24
- Current Landscape SY 23-24
- Areas for Growth
- Areas of Recognition
- End of Year Growth for Bridge to Algebra Students
- Professional Learning
- Continued Momentum
- Math Labs
- Original Algebra 1 Integration Plan
- Algebra 1 Integration plan

Ms. Mulligan shared that the working group is on track to achieving the goal, but outside of the original timeline presented earlier in the school year. The full implementation will begin in SY24-25 with 6th grade and 7th and 8th grades will remain the same. 7th grade will be fully implemented in SY25-26 and 8th grade Algebra 1 will be in SY26-27. In reviewing the original plan, the working group noticed that the 6th grade cohort would miss 127 lessons between 7th and 8th grades.

The group discussed the following topics:

- Communications to families:
 - Sent in late May
 - Information was clear regarding 6th grade accelerated math, but less clear about Algebra 1 in 8th grade.

- Ms. Mulligan offered to circle back to families regarding 8th grade communications.
- Potential opportunity of a parent information session highlighted by Dr. Edwards
- Bridge to Algebra
 - Kudos to Josh Marden as the leader behind the program; Ms. Tucker is the lead coordinator
 - Initial challenges of rolling out the program.
 - 8th Grade content offered at the beginning of the program which may now be optional as some caregivers were not happy with this approach.
 - Allowed families to choose their goals with Bridge to Algebra: embracing opportunity to learn additional math concepts vs. formally placing out of Algebra 1 in 9th grade.
 - There is no placement test as the course has checkpoints throughout the units.
 - Issue of varying levels of involvement from facilitators across schools.
 - Follow-up request regarding demographics of students who placed out of Algebra 1 following the program.

The group discussed the following topics:

- Black and brown students are experiencing high growth but not at the same rate as others and the importance of reviewing the data as it relates to student demographics.
- iReady data – significant amount of students are not placing out of Algebra 1 in 9th grade.
- Impressive growth rate of students in math.
- In 2018, CSUS graduated a class in which everyone placed out of Algebra 1.
- The need for more collaboration time with special education and general education teachers.
- Professional education opportunities starting at the elementary levels
- Ensuring that paraprofessionals and substitutes are included in substantive professional education opportunities and the nuances of addressing these issues during contract negotiations.
- Professional learning day for educators before each unit is offered to students.
- Working collaboration with parent group CALA (Cambridge Advanced Learning Association).
- Young People's Project (YPP) partnership offering supports during the school day and after school.
- How to address the challenges and support students entering 6th grade who have not reached grade level; this data is still being disaggregated.
- Varying levels of enthusiasm from educators regarding new approach, although all are dedicated and onboard with the plan.
- Potential use of WIN blocks in supporting the new implementation timeline
- The use of online resources including the Art of Problem Solving, ALEKS and Alechmist.

Following the discussion, **Co-Chair Harding** thanked the presenters and adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.