

LEA Mathematics Course of Study Questions & Answers

March 2019

Questions related to the 2019 Alabama Course of Study: Mathematics

- 1. What math standards should school districts plan to teach next school year?**
 - School districts should continue to teach the standards in the *2016 Revised Alabama Course of Study: Mathematics* located at <https://tinyurl.com/yy4fgu5a>.
 - The *2019 Alabama Course of Study: Mathematics* will undergo further review, and upon completion will be recommended for board approval no later than March 2020.
 - None of the courses in the proposed *2019 Alabama Course of Study: Mathematics* should be taught in the 2019-2020 academic year because the standards for these classes have not been approved by the Alabama Board of Education and are not available to schools.
- 2. How does the delay in adopting the 2019 Alabama Course of Study: Mathematics impact summer math professional learning for 2019-2020 for math instruction?**
 - The Alabama Department of Education (ALSDE), in partnership with A+ College Ready, will offer professional learning for Grades 6-12 teachers in statistics content standards that are present in the *2016 Revised Alabama Course of Study: Mathematics*. The two-day statistics sessions will be offered via the Regional Inservice Centers at no cost.
 - A+ College Ready will continue to offer their 4-day E3 Summer Training Pathway professional learning based on the current 2016 Revised ACOS: Mathematics for Grade 7 Advanced, Algebra I, and Geometry teachers. However, the math teachers who are not in a part of the A+ Cohort will have the opportunity to attend these particular PD sessions at no cost.
 - Both the statistics and E3 professional learning opportunities address needs identified in the *2016 Revised Alabama Course of Study: Mathematics* and will position teachers well in implementing the *2019 Alabama Course of Study: Mathematics* once it is adopted.
 - PD opportunities for elementary math teachers should focus on past planning to support math instruction currently taking place in LEAs.
- 3. Will it be feasible to plan for the 2019 DRAFT math ACOS to be recommended this summer? If not, when should LEAs expect a recommendation?**
 - A draft of the *2019 Alabama Course of Study: Mathematics* will not be available until after the committee has convened and completed a review based on the Governor's requests.
 - Although a definite schedule has not yet been established, the draft *2019 Alabama Course of Study: Mathematics* will be posted to solicit public comment, revised based on that review, and presented to the Alabama Board of Education. The mathematics course of study committee will convene July 9-11, 2019, to begin the process. Once a definite schedule is established, it will be communicated to school districts via the Curriculum and Instruction meetings.
- 4. How does the decision to reconvene the Math Course of Study Committee impact the ELA and CTE ACOS committee work that is scheduled to be in March 26 – 27, 2019?**
 - The English Language Arts (ELA) Course of Study Committee will not meet in 2019-2020 but will be slated to begin work in March 2020.
 - The CTE Committees for Agriculture, Public Law, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) career clusters will begin their work March 26-27, 2019, and follow the planned schedule.

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Questions related to Purchasing Textbooks

- 5. Will we still be able to use textbook funds to purchase math materials even though we do not have an approved Course of Study?**

Yes. The State Textbook Law, *Code of Alabama, §16-36-62(d)*, gives local school systems the flexibility to choose textbooks/materials that are not on the state adopted list. The textbooks/materials must be recommended by the local textbook committee, and, upon the recommendation of the local superintendent, adopted by the local board of education.

- 6. When will there be a Call to Bid for New Math textbooks?**

The State Textbook Law, Code of Alabama §16-36-61 states that the “adoption schedule for each subject area shall be determined by the State Superintendent of Education based on the Courses of Study development schedule, knowledge-based changes, financial considerations, the need for staggered adoption schedules, needs expressed by the local superintendents, contract expiration dates and other factors deemed appropriate by the State Superintendent of Education”.

- 7. Since the math adoption has been delayed, is it allowable for us to use some of this year’s funds for math to get a head start? Will we be able to purchase math consumables along with the curriculum?**

The ALSDE will not review mathematics textbooks, so it is not appropriate to pursue the adoption process. Math consumables may be purchased and would be an allowable expense.

- 8. Are we allowed to use textbook money to purchase computers/chrome books for students whose textbooks/courses are online? These are computers/chrome books that are used in our access labs and have all online textbooks.**

Chromebooks are classified as hardware and not an allowable expense with textbook funds; however, the software (content) being loaded would be an allowable expenditure. You may use your technology dollars for purchases of such hardware.

- 9. Can you advise as to what procedures must be taken if our system will not be adopting/purchasing any Computer Science programs? Is it necessary to have a textbook committee and to take any action?** No procedures are necessary and there is no need for a textbook committee.

- 10. Is the current textbook adoption for the 2019 Technology Education and Computer Science?**

Yes. The name of the course/standards has been renamed *Digital Literacy and Computer Science*.

- 11. Can LEAs carryover textbook funds from one year to the next?**

You cannot carryover “textbook funds.” You can encumber them or you may flex them. If you flex the funds you will be moving local expenditures in Foundation which would leave that amount of local funds available to use for textbooks.