



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Thomas R. Bice
State Superintendent of Education

September 30, 2013

Alabama
State Board
of Education

MEMORANDUM

Governor
Robert Bentley
President

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

Tracy T. Roberts
District I

FROM: Thomas R. Bice *TRB*
State Superintendent of Education

Betty Peters
District II

SUBJECT: Flexibility in Awarding Credit for Algebra I and Geometry

Stephanie Bell
District III

Previously, school systems have had the option of offering Algebra I as a credit-bearing course in Grade 8. For highly accelerated students, school systems were afforded the option to offer Algebra I in Grade 7 and Geometry in Grade 8 by requesting a waiver. Students taking Algebra I in Grade 7 did not receive graduation credit, but satisfied the Algebra I graduation requirement. However, students received graduation credit for the course taken in Grade 8—Geometry.

Yvette M.
Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV

In an effort to offer more flexibility to school systems in determining the needs of their students, including transferring students, careful consideration has been given to this issue. We have determined that school systems may offer students the option of taking both Algebra I and Geometry in Grades 7 and 8, respectively, for high school credit and to meet graduation requirements. However, school systems should consider the following conditions when this option is chosen:

Ella B. Bell
District V
President Pro Tem

Charles E. Elliott, M.D.
District VI
Vice President

- Identify students for enrollment in these courses through the administration of readiness tests, e.g., Woodcock Johnson III Test and Orleans Hanna Algebra Prognostic Test.
- Ensure the instruction of all course of study content standards for Grade 7 and Grade 8.
- Ensure the instruction of all course of study content standards for Algebra I and Geometry.
- Ensure that the progress of courses that each student takes does not contain repeated content.
- Require students to earn at least two (2) additional mathematics credits in Grades 9-12. School systems are strongly encouraged to require the earning of more than two (2) mathematics credits in Grades 9-12.
- Ensure that these courses appear on students' high school transcripts.

Jeff Newman
District VII

Mary Scott Hunter, J.D.
District VIII

Thomas R. Bice, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

City and County Superintendents of Education
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Allowing this option is based on recognition that school systems have a need to serve gifted students who desire to enroll in additional mathematics courses during their high school years. I strongly recommend, therefore, that school systems continue to closely monitor the progress of these students throughout high school. This data should be beneficial in determining the success and advisability of students beginning Algebra I in Grade 7 in the future.

If further assistance is needed, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Susan B. Davis at 334-242-8059 or by e-mail at sdavis@alsde.edu or Ms. Cindy Freeman at 334-353-1191 or by e-mail at cfreeman@alsde.edu.

TRB:CCB:SM

cc: Curriculum Coordinators
Applicable ALSDE Personnel

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