Re-examining
CUSD Math Pathways

Presentation to the CUSD Board of Trustees
October 11, 2018

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Presentation Purposes

● Share our draft plan
● Gather feedback from the Board of Trustees regarding our process and timeline prior to finalizing our plan
Presentation Overview

- Purpose
- A video for inspiration!
- Why change?
- Draft timeline
- Current pathways in CUSD
- Draft process
- Communication plan
- Board feedback and questions
Our Aims

● Ensure that our middle school students are placed in math courses that match their learning skills and interests, and also provide them with the best opportunity to stretch, grow, and be successful in order to reach their highest potential.

● Highlight and build upon teaching methods that inspire and support each student to gain the confidence, curiosity, and skills needed for success in mathematics during their years in CUSD, high school, and beyond.
Why should we consider changes to our policy and math pathways?

- Commitment to continuous improvement for our kids!
- Desire for more flexibility to accelerate
- Social-emotional impacts associated with math course placement
- Concerns about limited access to 6th grade accelerated math placement
- Strengthen our communication and partnerships with families
Proposed Timeline

- Community Input: Fall 2018
- Policy Shifts and Community Meetings: Winter-Spring 2019
- Research, Exploration and Recommendations: Winter 2018-2019
- New Math Pathways and Practices: Spring 2019-Fall 2019
Current CUSD Middle School Math Pathways

5th Grade
- CCSS Math 5

6th Grade
- CCSS Math 6
- Diagnostic

7th Grade
- CCSS Math 7
- Diagnostic
- To Algebra Pathway
- CCSS Math 78
- CCSS Math 78Alg

8th Grade
- CCSS Math 8
- CCSS 8Alg
- CCSS AlgGeo

3 Courses in 3 Years (Grade Level)
4 Courses in 3 Years
5 Courses in 3 Years
Current CUSD Math Pathways Enrollment Numbers

6th grade*  
\( n = 1847 \)

- Math 6  
  \( n = 1121 \)
  60%

7th grade*  
\( n = 1856 \)

- Math 7  
  \( n = 475 \)
  25%

- Math 7/8  
  \( n = 552 \)
  30%

8th grade*  
\( n = 1975 \)

- Math 8  
  \( n = 542 \)
  27%

- Math 8 Alg  
  \( n = 570 \)
  29%

- Geometry  
  \( n = 863 \)
  44%

* Numbers do not include students enrolled in Special Education math classes.
How We Will Address the WHY

● Mathematics Pathway Teacher Research Team
● Mathematics Advisory Council
● Student, Teacher, and Parent Input
● Community Meetings
● Policy Shifts
● Communication and opportunities for engagement
Mathematics Pathway Teacher Research Team

- Study and reflect on policies and practices for math placement and mathematics learning
- Make recommendations for increasing flexibility in order to meet the needs of each learner
- Highlight and build upon teaching methods that inspire and support each student to gain confidence, curiosity, and skills for success
Mathematics Advisory Council

Advisory group comprised of students, parents, teachers, school principals and/or assistant principals, and District staff members to:

- Analyze feedback from our stakeholders
- Share ideas to inform our improvement work
- Provide input to shape our communication plan and parent education events
Student, Teacher, and Parent Input Gathering

- Survey parents/guardians, teachers & students
  - Share ideas about what’s working
  - Offer hopes for shifts in practice

- Schools engage students in focus groups
  - Learn about students’ experiences
  - Offer hopes for their math learning

- This information will be synthesized and shared with our MAC, Teacher Research Team, and school principals.
Community Meetings

Principals will:

● Hold community meetings to share District plans for math placement in 2019-2020

● Share examples of what to expect in the classroom

● Provide information on how parents/guardians can support learning at home
Policy Shifts

At the October 25, 2018 Board meeting, staff will share recommendations for policy shifts.

- The Board will consider these recommendations as a “first read” and provide feedback.

Staff will incorporate Board feedback into additional policy revisions, as needed.

- Bring a revised policy for Trustees to consider approving at the December 13, 2018 meeting.
Communication Plan

- Meetings with middle school principals (August-June)
- Teacher Research Team (October-spring)
- Letter to community (October)
- Gather community input (October-November)
- Board updates (October, December, January, April)
- Community meetings (Ongoing at PAC/SSC and February-March to share plans for 2019-2020)
- Website and Twitter (October-June)