Shaping the Future of Mathematics in North Carolina
From Standards to Students

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Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee
March 31, 2026

Desired Outcomes

Understand where North Carolina is in the **math standards revision process**.

Recognize current strengths and **momentum in mathematics**.

See how **standards** translate into coherent instruction and **student experience**.

Share how **North Carolina's math direction** is informed by shared statewide and national priorities.

ACHIEVING EDUCATIONAL
EXCELLENCE

Prepare Each Student for Their Next Phase in Life

PILLAR 1

> "The future of mathematics in North Carolina is shaped by the standards we design, and how they come to life for students in classrooms across the state."

Focus Area 2 | Elevate Teaching and Learning

ACTION 3

Design a **Pre-K–12 Teaching and Learning Framework** with PSUs to set shared expectations for standards-aligned instruction, integrated supports and access high-quality learning for all students.

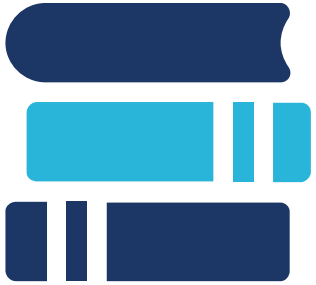
Focus Area 1 | Ignite Early Learning

ACTION 2

Build on the implementation of North Carolina's Science of Reading initiative by continuing to expand high-impact literacy practices and **launch a parallel focus on foundational mathematics** to support early learning.

Standards

K-12 Mathematics
Standard Course
of Study



Curriculum

Texts
Lessons
Activities & Tasks
Classroom Assessments

A Clear Direction for Mathematics in North Carolina

Aligning Standards, Instruction, and Student Experience

Our Why

Standards → Students

- Mathematical Reasoning
- High Expectations for All
- Alignment to Workforce

TRANSFORMING EXPECTATIONS INTO EXPERIENCES

- Meaningful Math Experiences
- Applied Learning & Problem Solving
- Data Literacy

Our Approach

Guiding Principles

FOR MATHEMATICS IN NORTH CAROLINA

1. Conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and application
2. Vertical coherence across grade levels
3. Rigor with access to advanced coursework
4. Relevance to students' futures
5. High expectations that build student confidence in mathematics

Shared Priorities

Shaping the Direction of Mathematics in North Carolina

- Strengthening **evidence-based** ***mathematics instruction***
- Supporting the use of **high-quality** ***instructional materials***
- Investing in **professional learning** to ***support teachers***
- Ensuring thoughtful ***screening and placement*** practices
- Preparing for ***implementation*** through phased, transparent approaches

Reinforced Statewide

Golden LEAF Schools Initiative

Focused on rural middle school mathematics

Building on Momentum in Mathematics

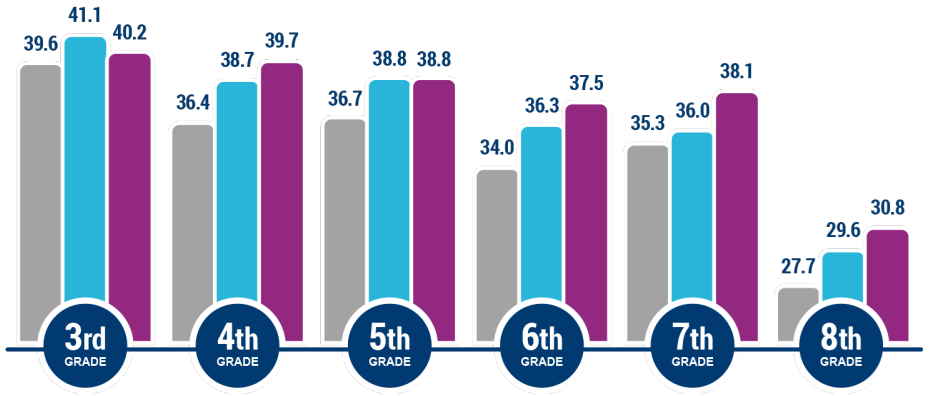
What's Working and What's Reinforcing Our Direction

Recent Trends in Math

3rd–8th Grades

College and Career Readiness

Momentum **is building as more students move toward CCR.**

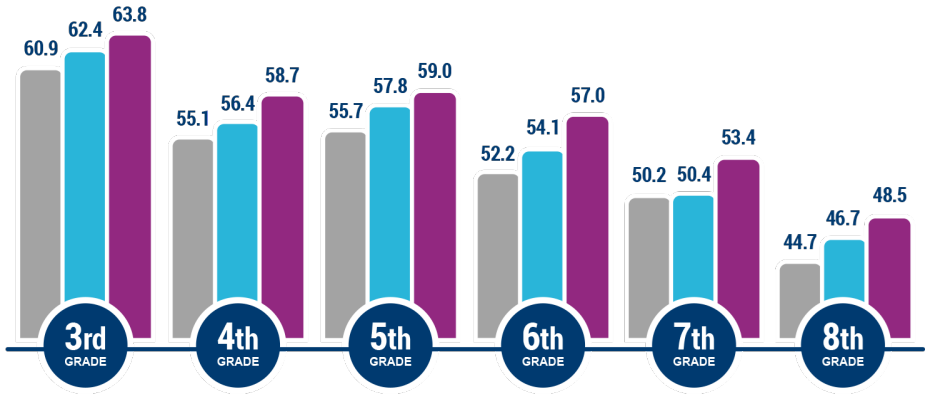


End-of-Year Math Performance by Grade (Level 4+)

2022-23 2023-24 2024-25

Grade-Level Proficiency

Positive trends are evident. We must ***Accelerate*** **our progress.**



End-of-Year Math Performance by Grade (Level 3+)

2022-23 2023-24 2024-25

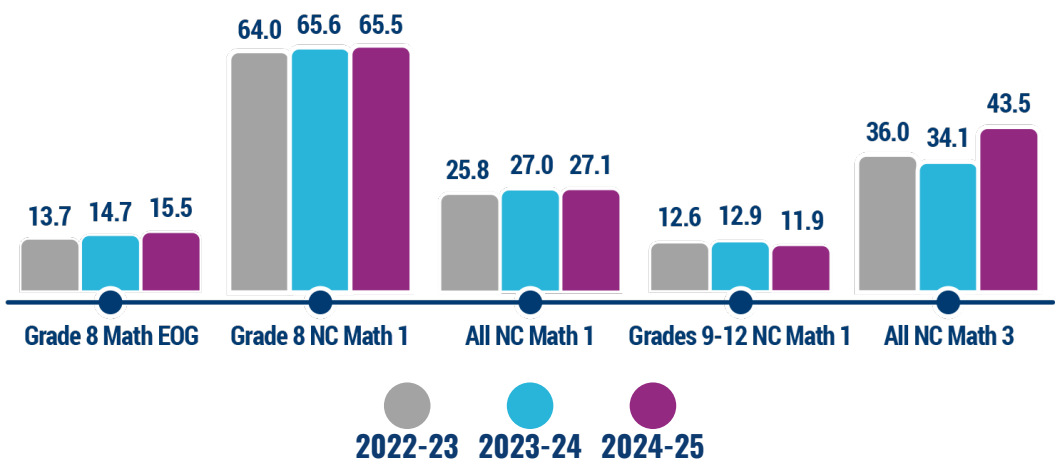
Recent Trends in Math

High School

30.7% of 8th grade students took **Math 1** in 2024-2025

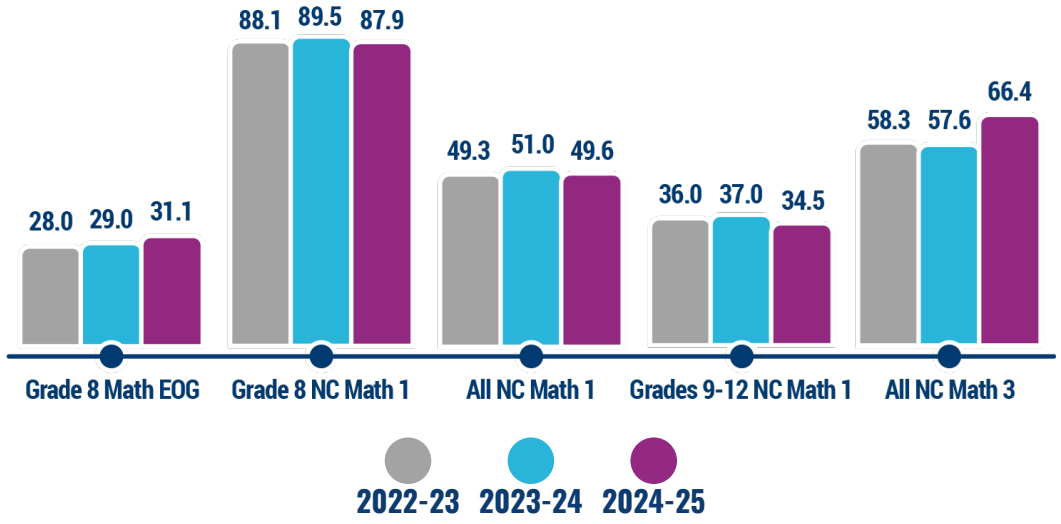
College and Career Readiness

Math EOG & EOC Course Performance | Grades 8-12



Grade-Level Proficiency

Math EOG & EOC Course Performance | Grades 8-12



Recent Trends in Math

State Comparisons

NAEP 4th Grade

Recent Trends in Math

State Comparisons

NAEP 8th Grade

Student Experience

High School Math Pathways and Access

- **Multiple pathways** aligned to future-ready student goals
- Transition to **AP Precalculus** framework
- **Automatic enrollment** expands access to advanced coursework
- Placement works best when **preparation and instruction** are aligned

National Perspective

Reinforcing Our Direction

What We Heard from ExcelinEd

- Affirmation of the **overall direction and structure** of North Carolina's draft math standards
- Reinforcement of key design principles:
  - Clear expectations for instruction
  - Evidence-based mathematics practices
  - Usability and clarity for educators

Why This Matters

- Confirms **North Carolina's approach reflects national best practices**
- Reinforces that the state is building on momentum, not starting over

ExcelinEd

December 19, 2025
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
North Carolina Board of Education
301 N. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Foundation for Excellence in Education (ExcelinEd), an organization promoting student-centered, state-based policy solutions to transform education and ensure success for every student, I would like to submit our feedback on Draft 1 of the new K-12 Mathematics Standards. To spur the examination of and improvement around math policy, we recently released Math Matters, a 50-state resource detailing adoption and implementation of evidence-based math policies across the country.

We support the Department's efforts to provide all students with rigorous, relevant and evidence-based mathematical instruction.

The proposed standards keep the current four-credit high school requirement and pathways to Calculus, while adding new options aligned with students' career interests. This is the right approach to ensure both innovation and rigor in mathematics.

The improved and streamlined proposed standards prioritize conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, real-world problem solving and productive dispositions. In addition, the integrated Math 1 and Math 2 courses also provide all students with evidence-based instruction and foundational mathematics skills.

We applaud the Department for recognizing the need for students to acquire relevant data science skills to be prepared for the future workforce. Recent ExcelinEd research shows that almost one-in-four job postings in North Carolina already require at least one data science skill, and there is a significant wage premium for workers with data science skills. The proposed standards would embed data science competencies throughout K-12 math standards and offer new rigorous standalone high school course options, Applied Statistics and Data Science and Mathematical and Statistical Reasoning, for students to further acquire data skills.

Our organization remains committed to supporting the successful adoption and implementation of evidence-based math policies through our Math Network convenings, policy resources and technical assistance. As the Department continues to work through the rulemaking process, please do not hesitate to reach out if we can provide any further assistance. Thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of students.

Regards,

Lindsey Henderson,

Senior Policy Director, Math

ExcelinEd

Select the image to view the ExcelinEd letter

Statewide Perspective

Reinforcing Our Direction

What We Heard at the Best NC Convening

- Broad agreement on the importance of **high-quality mathematics instruction**
- Shared focus on:
  - Rigor alongside access
  - Preparing students for college, career, and life
  - Strengthening instructional quality as access expands

Why This Matters

- Reflects alignment across education, business, and policy leaders in North Carolina
- Signals that the math direction is **shared and supported statewide**

From Mathematics Standards to Students

Designing Strong Instruction and Implementation

Why Revisions?
Why Now?

- Need for clearer, more concise standards
- Stronger vertical alignment
- Aligning to workforce needs
- More explicit connections to real-world application

Data Review Committee Recommendations for Draft 1

- Implement high school **math pathways** to connect student postsecondary aspirations to their math courses
- **Narrow the scope of standards** to distinguish essential knowledge all graduates need from additional concepts connected to postsecondary interest
- Maintain **4 credit requirement** with NC Math 1 and NC Math 2
- Increase the role of **statistics and data science**
- Adopt **AP Precalculus framework** to replace current NC Precalculus standards and significantly revise NC Math 3 and NC Math 4
- Ensure parity between **procedural fluency, conceptual understanding and application** across all grades and courses

Data Review Committee Recommendations for Draft 2

- Emphasis on **clear** and **concise** standards
- Ensure **consistent** use of **language** and **terminology**
- Refine **vertical progression** and **alignment**, especially between 5th-6th and 8th-Math 1
- Maintain a key role for the **Standards for Mathematical Practices**
- Refine the **coherence** and **alignment** of standards within and across **high school** courses
- Clarify the **depth** of **expectations** for **elementary** standards

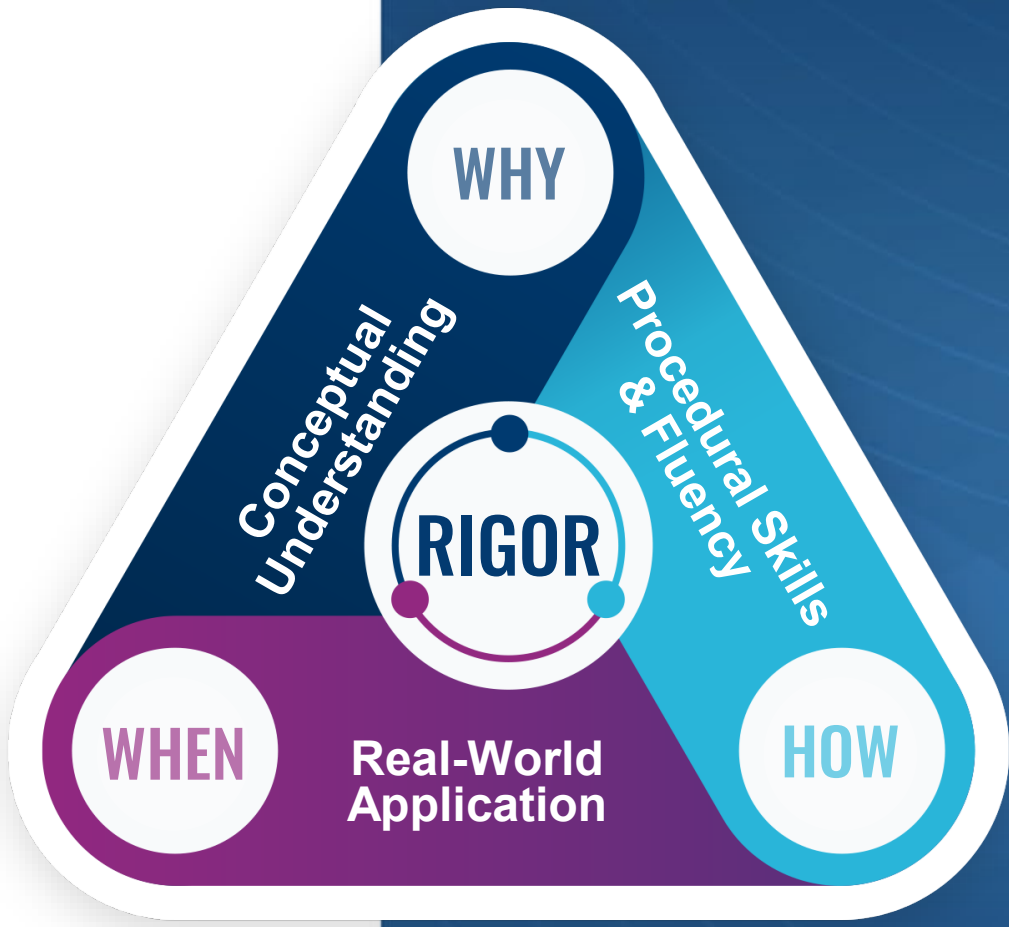
How the Draft Standards Respond

- Streamlined language and clearer expectations
- Improved progression across grade levels
- Balanced emphasis on:

Conceptual Understanding

Procedural Fluency

Real-World Application



Current NC Student Experience

Focus	Future Ready/UNC System Institution Minimum Admission Requirements	Admission into a Community College or Entering the Workforce Directly after Graduation
Required for all students*	NC Math 1	NC Math 1
	NC Math 2	NC Math 2
	NC Math 3	NC Math 3
Options Available For 4th Math credit	• NC Math 4 • Precalculus/AP Precalculus • AP Calculus • AP Statistics • Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science • Approved IB courses • Approved dual enrollment course	• AP/IB Computer Science • NCDPI - CTE course or course pairing
Example Careers	All post-secondary careers and majors requiring university level admission	• Credentials and certifications for trades, vocations • Immediate workforce entry • Community college

Course Options

- Consistent Graduation Expectations
- Essential Skills for Graduates
- Future-Ready Math Pathways

	Future Ready/UNC System Institution Minimum Admission Requirements			
Student Career Interests	Biological & Physical Sciences Engineering Mathematics Scientist Financial Management	Database Administrator Business Marketing Cybersecurity Social Sciences	Social Sciences Fine Arts Humanities Performing Arts Criminal Justice	**Admission to Community College or Entering the Workforce Directly After Graduation**
Required for All Students	NC Math 1	NC Math 1	NC Math 1	NC Math 1
	NC Math 2	NC Math 2	NC Math 2	NC Math 2
Students Must Earn TWO Credits from These Courses	Mathematical & Statistical Modeling Applied Statistics & Data Science Applied Logic and Reasoning (*Formerly Discrete Math*)	AP Precalculus AP Statistics AP Calculus* Approved IB/Dual Enrollment course*		**Students Must Earn ONE Credit from These Courses** Mathematical & Statistical Modeling Applied Statistics & Data Science Applied Logic and Reasoning *AP/IB Computer Science*** **AND** ONE CTE Course or Course Pairing
Example Pairings	AP Precalculus AP Calculus* **OR** Mathematical & Statistical Modeling AP Precalculus	Applied Statistics & Data Science AP Statistics **OR** Mathematical & Statistical Modeling Applied Logic and Reasoning	Mathematical & Statistical Modeling Applied Logic and Reasoning **OR** Applied Statistics & Data Science Applied Logic and Reasoning	

Summary

Consistent Graduation Expectations

Maintains **the 4 high school math credit requirement for graduation.**

- Continue requiring NC Math 1 and NC Math 2 for all students
- Continue requiring two additional math courses aligned to student post-secondary interests

Essential Skills for Graduates

Addresses the *skills and concepts* all graduates need by revising NC Math 1 and NC Math 2

Future-Ready Math Pathways

Addresses the *increasing need for Statistics and Data Science* standards and provides high level math *courses aligned to student post-secondary interests* by:

- Implementing high school math pathways
- Restructuring NC Math 3 and NC Math 4
- Revising Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science

Math Standards Revision Timeline

2026-27 + 2027-28
School Years *(Tentative)*

Installation Phase

Communication
- PSU leadership
- Educators
- Parents
- Other Stakeholders

Professional Learning
- Regional PD
- Virtual

Support Documents
- Unpacking
- Glossary
- Crosswalk
- Parent Guides

Data Collection
- Needs assessment
- Quality Assurance Roundtable

2028-29
School Year *(Tentative)*

Implementation Phase

Communication
- PSU leadership
- Educators
- Parents
- Other Stakeholders

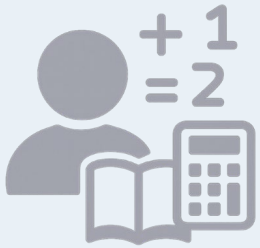
Professional Learning
- Regional PD
- Virtual

Support Documents
- Based on data from the field

Data Collection
- Needs assessment
- Quality Assurance Roundtable

State assessments aligned to the new standards

North Carolina Mathematics Standards Revisions



Readiness

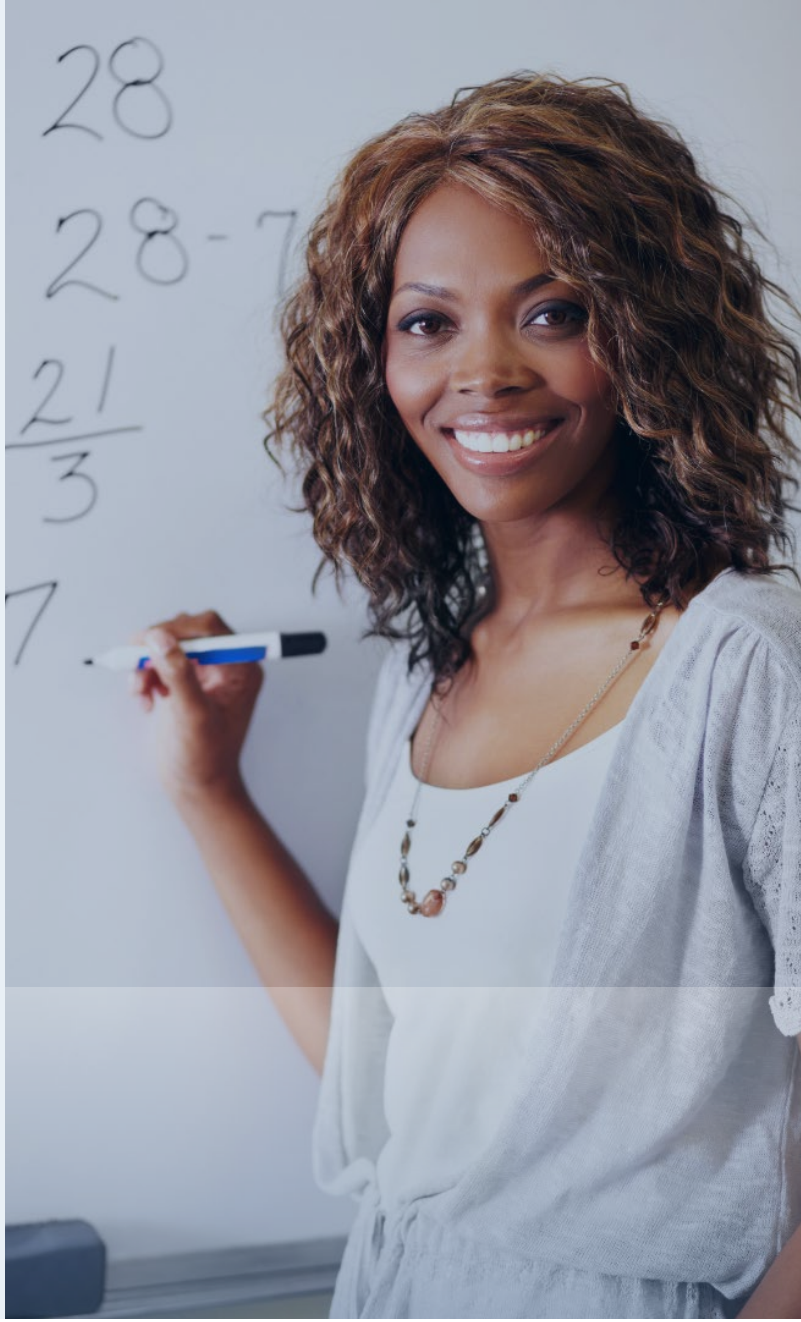
Coherence

Alignment

Clarity

Relevance

Choice



Resources to Reference

Strategic Plan

Internal Procedures for Standards Revision Manual

NCDPI listservs

Office of Teaching and Learning website

Questions?

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