

High School GPS Math FAQs

1. What is the new GPS (Georgia Performance Standards) for mathematics?

“The Georgia Performance Standards for mathematics have been designed to achieve a **balance** among concepts, skills, and problem solving. The curriculum stresses rigorous concept development, presents realistic and relevant tasks, and keeps a strong emphasis on computational skills. At all grades, the curriculum encourages students to reason mathematically, to evaluate mathematical arguments both formally and informally, to use the language of mathematics to communicate ideas and information precisely, and to make connections among mathematical topics and to other disciplines.”

The following state sites provide more information as well as resources.

<https://www.georgiastandards.org>

www.georgiamath.org (This site contains resources for parents such as FAQ’s answered at the state level.)

2. Why was the mathematics curriculum changed?

The Georgia Department of Education made a decision a few years ago to change the mathematics curriculum for the state due to the state’s low performance in math compared to other states and countries. The result is the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) for math.

3. How will colleges know about these courses?

Georgia’s colleges and universities were heavily involved in the creation of the new curriculum and are aware of the new math course names and content. Additionally, colleges throughout the country are accustomed to seeing a variety of course names on student transcripts and course descriptions will be available if needed.

4. What mathematics courses will my child need to take in high school to graduate?

The new graduation rule for all students entering the ninth grade in 2008 or later for the first time requires four years of GPS mathematics. The following is an example of the two possible courses the students can follow in high school.

High School Year	Mathematics Courses	Accelerated Mathematics Courses
9 th grade	Mathematics I	Accelerated Mathematics I
10 th grade	Mathematics II	Accelerated Mathematics II
11 th grade	Mathematics III	Accelerated Mathematics III
12 th grade	Mathematics IV, AP Statistics, or another 4 th year state course	AP Calculus, AP Statistics, or another 4 th year state course

5. How is Houston County School System implementing the new GPS mathematics?

Houston County School System has been implementing the GPS Mathematics Program as prescribed by the state. The new curriculum began with 6th grade in the year 2005 and has since been placed in all grades K-10 by 2009/2010. Over the next two years the curriculum will move into the 11th and 12th grades to complete implementation of the courses.

6. What textbooks are being used for the new curriculum?

In the fall of 2007, Houston County put together a textbook committee to begin the search for a math textbook that would align to the new GPS curriculum. Most publishing companies were not prepared for the new curriculum and at that time, McDougal Littell was the only publisher who provided a textbook for Georgia. They did so by pulling apart their Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II textbooks and putting the lessons back together to align to our new curriculum. We have since learned that even these textbooks do not provide us with the alignment we need for our students to master the state standards.

The state has provided detailed frameworks with tasks for every unit in each course. In Houston County, we have been working with a small group of teachers who take this curriculum the state has provided and add further notes, worksheets, and resources for teachers to use. If this curriculum is followed, there is really no need for textbooks. Students will be able to use the materials supplied to create a notebook.

7. What other resources are available?

There is always a need for resources for students to receive help beyond the classroom. That was the main reason for even purchasing textbooks for the Math II and Accelerated Math II-*resources*. Through the textbook company we have online textbooks and we have DVD's for home use. There are not enough online textbooks for every student to have that access; however, lessons are available to every student through www.classzone.com. No activation code is needed to access such resources as the @HomeTutor in which a teacher's voice leads the students through the process of the skill or the eWorkbook with interactive worksheets and more. Teachers have available the correlation to these resources and the lessons they are teaching in class. These resources along with the notes and worksheets from class will provide the students with the resources they should need.

8. What additional help is provided for my child outside the math class?

Each high school provides many opportunities for extra help before, during and after school. Since the scheduling of these tutoring sessions is determined by the individual schools, please check with your child's teacher or counselor for specific information about these sessions.

9. What is the grading system used for the GPS math courses?

A common grading procedure has been established for all the high school GPS math classes in Houston County. The percentages below will give the average *before* the final exam or EOCT grade is included.

Percentages making up the grade before the final exam are as follows:

Accelerated Mathematics I:

Tests and Culminating Tasks (at least 6 grades each semester)	50%
Projects and Learning Tasks	25%
Quizzes	15%
Daily Work	10%

Mathematics I:

Tests and Culminating Tasks (at least 6 grades each semester)	40%
Projects and Learning Tasks	25%
Quizzes	20%
Daily Work	15%

Accelerated Mathematics II and Mathematics II:

Tests and Culminating Tasks (at least 6 grades each semester)	50%
Projects and Learning Tasks	20%
Quizzes	20%
Daily Work	10%

Support Math I and II:

Projects and Learning Tasks	50%
Quizzes	25%
Daily Work	25%

10. What happens if my child fails a mathematics course?

Since all students who have entered 9th grade since 08/09 must now have 4 years of GPS math, failing a semester of math puts the students behind and could result in a later graduation from high school. To help failing students get back on track, Houston County School System provides several different options for recovery of credit with special recovery classes during the second semester for those who fail a first semester course as well as summer school recovery for both semesters. Other options are available depending on the individual needs of the students. Letters are sent out notifying parents with specific information about these options before the end of each semester.

11. What can I do as a parent to help my child at home?

You can support your child by encouraging him/her to use a notebook to take good notes and keep all the tasks, graphic organizers, worksheets, tests and quizzes they are provided in this notebook. The notebook is the number one resource for these courses. The resources on classzone.com can also help with many of the concepts. (See question #7)

Encourage your child to do their very best on the first administration of every test and to take advantage of the second chances offered for test. Do not focus on achieving a higher grade; rather focus on learning the concepts which will result in a higher grade. Our goal is that students build a conceptual understanding of the mathematics giving them a strong mathematical foundation so that they will be able to apply their knowledge in the future.